

Israel arrests two Palestinians in settler killing

HEBRON (R) — Israeli security forces stormed a Palestinian village in the West Bank on Sunday and arrested two men in connection with the killing of a Jewish settler earlier this year, Palestinian security sources said. They said Mahmoud Kahlil Dababseh and his cousin Taleb Ahmad Dababseh were arrested in Yatta village, near the West Bank town of Hebron. Israeli officials were not available for comment. Palestinians shot dead a Jewish settler near the agricultural settlement of Maon in April. The settlement is near Yatta. Settlers said the shooting in April was the fatal culmination of a long-running land dispute between Palestinian shepherds and the farmers.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأى

Mubarak meets with Assad on Mideast peace

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak met Sunday with his Syrian counterpart for talks on the Mideast peace process and the need for Israel to resume negotiations with Lebanon and Syria, Egypt's Middle East News Agency reported. The two are meeting in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm Al Sheikh. Syrian President Hafez Assad also is expected to brief Mubarak on the latest developments between Syria and Turkey following a security deal between the two countries last month ended tensions that threatened to escalate into war. Egyptian mediation between the two countries resulted in an agreement whereby Syria agreed to brand the Kurdish Labour Party a "terrorist" group and to clamp down its activity in Syria.

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Jordan warns Hamas members in Kingdom against inciting violence

By Alia A. Tonkan

AMMAN — While denying any official presence of Hamas in the Kingdom, the government has warned leaders of the Islamic resistance movement in Jordan to refrain from making statements inciting violence or obstructing the recent Palestinian-Israeli peace deal.

"There are no bases, no headquarters, and no official presence of Hamas in the country," an official said yesterday, echoing Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh's statement Saturday that "Hamas has no leadership, no representation and no bases in Jordan," which he made after meeting with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in Ramallah.

"But if the individuals (belonging to the organisation) do not abide by the parameters of the freedom of expression set in this country, they will be dealt with by the

law," the official told the Jordan Times.

The clamp-down on Hamas comes in the wake of Thursday's bomb attack on an Israeli school bus in the Gaza Strip, claimed by the Islamic movement, as well as Amman's politburo chief Khaled Misha'al's statements last week condemning the recent Palestinian-Israeli Wye River peace deal and vowing that the movement will continue to wage war against the Jewish state.

Officials said the five Hamas leaders in Amman, most of whom are Jordanian citizens, were told to refrain from making public statements and speaking to the media. Hamas said it would oblige, according to the officials.

"This came on our own accord," said an official, in answer as to whether the Palestine National Authority (PNA) or Israel asked Jordan to take the measure.

"Jordan has every stake in seeing the Wye agreement be implemented by all parties," said the official. "The country does not want Hamas's presence in its territory to be used in any way to break the deal."

Meanwhile, the head of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan Abdul Majid Thneibat, told reporters Sunday following a rally organised by his movement against the Wye peace deal, that he condemned the government move and said that "Hamas officials are Jordanian citizens who have a right to express their opinion, as long as it is within the constitution and the law."

Although the PNA has raised the issue with the Kingdom on several occasions in the past, officials said the existence of Hamas in Jordan did not come up in the talks between Tarawneh and Arafat Saturday. But a Palestinian official told the Jordan

Times that the Kingdom had informed the PNA prior to the meeting that the movement was told to keep a low profile.

Jordan, which keeps a close eye on Hamas in its territory, has repeatedly said the organisation's members in Amman do not engage in any terror activities in the occupied territories or Israel, and that their office functions solely as a media outlet, and as such closing it down is not in order.

"As long as they are not violating Jordanian law, why close the office?" asked an official. "Hamas (in Jordan) knows the red lines."

Misha'al was the target of a failed assassination attempt by the Mossad last year in Amman. The politburo chief, who is a Jordanian citizen, has said in interviews with several Arab media outlets since the signing of the Wye River accord last week that he is totally opposed to the peace deal and that the war against

Israel by Hamas would continue.

Hamas's presence in Amman has long been a thorn in the side of both the PNA and Israel. During last April's internal Palestinian dispute between the PNA and Hamas over the controversial death of Mohieddin Sbarif, the Palestinian Authority was angered by the fact that Jordan did not stop the movement's office in Amman from issuing statements.

Following Saturday's talks in Ramallah, Tarawneh threw his full weight behind Arafat and the PNA, and said that Jordan recognises the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, in reference to an impending power struggle between Hamas and the PNA over the peace process.

The prime minister also warned that Jordan would not tolerate any acts aimed at sabotaging the Wye accord.

Regent urges cooperation to ensure implementation of peace agreements

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, has reaffirmed the need for all parties to the Middle East peace process to cooperate for the successful implementation of agreements reached between the different sides.

In an interview with Israel Channel 2 Television station, Prince Hassan said that His Majesty King Hussein has always called for cooperation among all parties for the achievement of peace.

Asked to comment on the elapse of three years now after the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the Regent said: "I believe that His Majesty King Hussein had believed that Rabin was a man of vision and courage and sincerity who helped build bridges across the psychological divide. I would say yes I do miss him."

The Regent said: "I think that Muslims and Jews recognise that what brought us together in civilisation over centuries was more than is dividing us in this century. I think the ability to politically overcome 'conventional wisdom' was a common factor between the two sides and I think that in terms of security, the issue of the moment, they were able to see that what is important is not to retain a hill here or a hill there."

In reply to a question on the cause of disappointment among Jordanians about the peace treaty, the Regent said: "It is not a reflection of rejection of peace, it is a feeling that some of the stated goals

had not been achieved as well as the hopes in terms of the opening of trade with Israel and the Palestinian territories."

"I would like to point out that there have been billions of dollars in trade between Palestinians and Israelis under successive Israeli governments and this has excluded Jordan's trade."

But there have been achievements over four years, he said. He gave as an example the question of water.

"We have been able to resolve that issue," he said.

Asked if the Misha'al affair has damaged Israeli-Jordanian relations, Prince Hassan said: "Yes, it did. I would go back and say what is important is not to let incidental crises here and there (damage peace). What is important is to recognise that we have to continue to bring down the (wall of) fear of peace."

Asked whether the Islamic resistance movement, Hamas, has presence in Jordan, the Regent said: "There are no headquarters, arms, instructions being issued or secret camps. This is very clear. We stand on the land along all the opponents of terror. But, of course there are extreme organisations in the Jewish world or the Arab World and the Islamic World so long as there is no promise of progress to peace. They will continue to exploit the situation."

Asked if he considers Netanyahu a man of peace after signing the Wye River agreement, Prince Hassan said: "We have to judge Wye

on its own merits and we have to accept that there is a man who is a prime minister of Israel and who has been decisive in accepting the fact that there is a new dynamic today. We have to give Wye a chance."

Asked to comment on an incident in which an Israeli settler was killed in the West Bank, he said: "The implementation of the Wye River agreement has not yet started but of course the tragic loss of life is again what (prompted) King Hussein to say enough for destruction."

"Once again, either we accept that there is no attempt to contain the course of death and destruction or we accept that the peace process is at least a positive attempt to contain the recurrence of the same," the Regent said.

Asked if the Wye agreement was a piece of paper, Prince Hassan said: "It is important to bear in mind the need for implementing the agreement which is not an end by itself — it is an Oslo-Clinton with the full support of the U.S."

On the King's health condition, the Regent said he thanks all the Israelis who sent messages of warm feelings. This has done a great deal to back all those in developing a community not of states but of people.

He said the bulletin issued last week from Mayo Clinic about the King's health was extremely encouraging. "I hope we can continue conveying him good news," the Crown Prince said.



Two Israeli army officers remove a Peace Now activist after he chained himself to a tractor to prevent Jewish settlers from clearing land Sunday at Ras Al Amoud in east Jerusalem (AP photo)

Jewish militants start settlement project in Ras Al Amoud area

TEL AVIV (AFP) — With a green light from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Jewish militants finally broke ground Sunday for a long-delayed Jewish settlement project in an Arab quarter of illegally annexed east Jerusalem.

The Palestinian National Authority immediately fired off protest letters to Israel, the United States and other governments saying the decision violated the terms of the latest peace agreement signed by Israel 10 days earlier.

Acting a day before the scheduled start of implementation of the accord, Netanyahu allowed Jewish militants to fence in the building site in preparation for archaeological excavations required before construction in the city.

Under the protection of around 30 policemen, a bulldozer also began levelling land at the site in the Ras Al Amoud neighbourhood on the east Jerusalem's Mount of Olives, witnesses said.

The project, led by members of the far-right religious group Ateret Cohanim and

financed by Jewish American millionaire Irving Moskowitz, is ultimately to build 132 units for Jews in the heart of Ras Al Amoud.

The area is home to 30,000 Arabs and is the last solidly Palestinian district linking Islamic sites in east Jerusalem's nearby Old City to the area's Palestinian suburbs.

The Jerusalem city government, controlled by Netanyahu's Likud Party, approved the building plan earlier this year after months of hesitation.

But Netanyahu refrained from giving final approval for fear of further disrupting the long-stalled negotiations with the Palestinians.

Just last week police blocked Ateret Cohanim from starting work at the site and the Shin Bet secret service reportedly recommended further delays in the project to avoid possibly violent protests.

But Netanyahu pressed ahead in an apparent bid to defuse right-wing anger over the land-for-security deal signed with the Palestinians in Washington on Oct. 23 and due to come into effect

on Monday. A spokesman, David Bar-Ilan, said the work was permitted to proceed because the prime minister "felt it did not represent a threat to public order."

A member of Ateret Cohanim said the group hoped to begin actual construction within six months.

"We came here today because we finally got the legal permits needed to work," said the militant, who only gave his name as Mati.

Ateret Cohanim spearheads efforts to settle Jews in east Jerusalem, which Israel occupied along with the rest of the West Bank in 1967 and later illegally annexed as part of its capital.

Mati claimed the group "wants to provide an example of Jews and Arabs living together."

But Ras Al Amoud resident Ali Daoud challenged the Israelis' right to settle in the Arab neighbourhood of 30,000.

"Why are you coming here?" he angrily asked Dan and about a dozen other Ateret Cohanim militants.

(Continued on page 12)

Israeli cabinet to judge Wye River deal on Tuesday

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will submit Israel's latest peace agreement with the Palestinians to his cabinet on Tuesday, a day after the pact is due to come into effect, a senior official said Sunday.

"The prime minister put off consideration of the agreement by the cabinet until Tuesday," Netanyahu's spokesman David Bar-Ilan, told AFP.

Netanyahu postponed a cabinet vote on the land-for-security agreement from last Thursday, saying the ministers would only consider the deal once the Palestinians submitted a plan for fighting terrorism as required by the accord.

"We are waiting for the Palestinian Authority to present the U.S. administration with its anti-terrorism plan and that the Americans confirm the document was drawn up in good faith," Bar-Ilan said.

The peace accord calls for Israel to transfer another 13 per cent of the West Bank to at least partial Palestinian control over three months and take other overdue steps expanding Palestinian autonomy in tandem with specific Palestinian steps to prevent anti-Israeli violence.

Under the terms of the deal signed in Washington on Oct. 23, the Palestinians have until Monday to "share" their security proposals with the United States, which is acting as a guarantor of the deal.

Palestinian officials said the deadline would be met. Religious and nationalist parties which hold dominant positions in Netanyahu's fragile coalition oppose the agreement, which they see as advancing the cause of Palestinian statehood and surrendering claims to territory they consider the promised land of Israel.

Despite the hard-liners' opposition Bar-Ilan said Netanyahu expected to have a clear majority in the cabinet in favour of the agreement.

The agreement was reached during nine days of intensive U.S.-mediated negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians at the Wye River Conference Centre outside Washington.

Bar-Ilan said Israel also planned this week to release the texts of several letters of guarantee from U.S. officials which accompanied the Wye River agreement.

Other Israeli officials said Netanyahu hoped the letters would calm the fears of hard-liners in his government who oppose ceding more land to the Palestinians.

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Iraq defies U.N., refuses to go back on break with inspectors

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq refused Sunday to reverse its decision to break with the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) for disarmament, defying the Security Council, and said it was left with no option in its efforts to lift sanctions.

"There will be no cooperation, no inspections and no monitoring (of Iraqi sites) by the U.S.-Zionist spy commission until Iraq's demands are met," Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan said.

He reiterated Baghdad's demands for a lifting of the embargo, UNSCOM which Iraq accuses of being under U.S. control to be restructured, and its chairman Richard Butler to be sacked.

The Security Council on Saturday, just hours after Iraq's break with UNSCOM, unanimously condemned the

decision and demanded that it be reversed "immediately and unconditionally."

But Ramadan said the Security Council's statement was "a new injustice against Iraq, and we reject it totally."

"The Security Council has so far not in the least adopted any positive initiative to do justice to Iraq and lift the embargo," the vice president told reporters at the opening of Baghdad international trade fair.

He said Iraq was "determined to pursue this path, whatever the sacrifices, until the embargo is lifted" and did not accept the Security Council's position on a "comprehensive review" of sanctions.

A crippling oil embargo imposed on Baghdad for its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait cannot be lifted until UNSCOM certifies the elim-

ination of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

An Iraqi official said the decision to cut ties with UNSCOM was taken because Baghdad felt it was left with no hope for an end of sanctions.

"The flexibility and cooperation which Iraq has shown since the embargo was imposed eight years ago has not led to anything. We have nothing left to lose," he told AFP, asking not to be named.

The break with UNSCOM coincided with the trade fair being annulled by several Arab ministers and firms from 30 countries. A U.N. oil-for-food accord authorises Iraqi crude exports to finance imports of food and medicine.

(Continued on page 12)

Arafat readies meeting to confirm changes to charter

RAMALLAH (AFP) — Yasser Arafat and other leaders of the Palestinian National Council (PNC) confirmed Sunday the timetable for revising the Palestinian covenant as required under the latest peace accord with Israel.

PNC speaker Salim Zannoun said the meeting formally decided that the Palestinian Central Council would convene within four weeks to reaffirm the cancellation of anti-Israeli clauses in the covenant.

"We held a preparatory meeting with Arafat to organise the central council meeting within four weeks," Zannoun said on the official

Voice of Palestine radio. "The council will ratify the letter sent by Arafat to U.S. President (Bill) Clinton specifying the articles in the covenant which have been cancelled," he said.

He said the 120-member central council, an intermediary body between the 600-member PNC and the smaller PLO Executive Committee, would be joined at the meeting by 12 deputies from the elected Palestinian Legislative Council.

The PNC, the Palestinians' top political body, was required under the 1995 Oslo interim peace accord to cancel all articles in the 1964 Palestinian covenant refer-

ring to the destruction of Israel as the Palestinians' ultimate goal.

At a meeting convened by Arafat in Gaza City in April 1996, the PNC adopted a broadly worded resolution cancelling all clauses in the covenant which contradicted signed peace accords with Israel.

The dovish Labour government in power in Israel at the time accepted that decision, but when the right returned to office two months later Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the PNC move was insufficient.

Arafat subsequently wrote Clinton a letter specifying all the clauses which were

affected by the decision, but Netanyahu insisted the full PNC reconvene to cancel each clause.

The Palestinians refused, saying the Oslo requirements had already been met.

The issue became a key sticking point in the negotiations which led to the so-called Wye River peace accord signed by Arafat and Netanyahu under Clinton's sponsorship on Oct. 23.

Under the agreement, Arafat agreed to convene the central council within six weeks to ratify changes to the charter as described in the letter to Clinton.

The full PNC and other representative Palestinian bodies

are then to be invited to a meeting in Gaza City to "reaffirm their support for the peace process" and the decision taken by the central council.

In a major gesture to the Palestinians in return for their willingness to reconvene the PNC, Clinton agreed to attend the Gaza City meeting, due to be held in mid-December.

For its side of the bargain, Netanyahu agreed to transfer an additional 15 per cent of the West Bank to at least partial Palestinian rule over three months and to enact other overdue measures expanding Palestinian autonomy.

Netanyahu isolated as Israel remembers Rabin assassination

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israelis drew together in mourning Sunday on the third anniversary of Yitzhak Rabin's assassination, while Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu found himself isolated and under attack for denouncing the late premier's peace legacy.

Flags were lowered to half-mast and ceremonies held nationwide as Israel observed an official day of mourning for Rabin, who was gunned down on Nov. 4, 1995 by a right-wing Jewish radical bent on halting the government's policy of turning West Bank land over to Palestinian control.

The anniversary was marked Sunday according to the Hebrew calendar. Saturday night, several hundred people turned out for one of the biggest public rallies in Israel's history to attend a memorial ceremony at the site in Tel Aviv of Rabin's murder.

"We must continue on his path. 'Peace isn't working without you,' and 'We are protecting the peace,' proclaimed giant banners hung around what is now called Rabin Square.

Several representatives of the political right, including serving government ministers, attended and even spoke at the rally.

But Netanyahu was not pre-

sent, choosing instead to give a television interview during which he renewed his harsh criticism of the Oslo peace accords signed by Rabin with the Palestinians between 1993 and 1995.

"We shall not follow the path laid out by the Labour Party in the Oslo accord, because it's a bad accord," he said.

Netanyahu was responding to criticism about his failure to even mention Rabin at the Oct. 23 signing ceremony in Washington of the so-called Wye River peace agreement with the Palestinians that reaffirmed Israel's land-for-peace commitment under the Oslo accords.

Even Justice Minister Tsahi Hanegbi, one of Netanyahu's closest allies and once the most virulent of Rabin critics, called his oversight "an embarrassment and a disgrace" because of the late prime minister's central role in the peace process.

But Netanyahu rejected any parallels with his predecessor, saying "I am not following in Rabin's path."

"We did all we could at Wye Plantation to repair the damage that [the Oslo accords] caused," Netanyahu said.

Netanyahu has long denied the Oslo agreements as having made too many concessions to the Palestinians while not protecting Israel's security.

Labour Party officials and

Rabin's family accused Netanyahu of playing a leading role, as opposition leader, in virulent anti-government protests which led up to and incited Rabin's assassination.

In the television interview Netanyahu again denied this, saying he actively opposed the use of accusations like "traitor" and "murderer" which rightist extremists hurled at Rabin and which assassin Yigal Amir cited in justifying his act.

And at the start of Sunday's weekly cabinet meeting, Netanyahu asked the ministers to observe a minute of silence in Rabin's memory.

At the request of Rabin's widow Leah, the keynote speaker at Sunday's main memorial ceremony at Jerusalem's Mount Herzl military cemetery will not be a representative of Netanyahu's government but former Army Chief of Staff Amnon Shahak — a potential political rival of the prime minister.

Netanyahu will speak however during a special session of parliament to be held later in the day as part of the memorial ceremonies.

Prayer services and seminars were also being organised in schools and army bases around the country. Flags were lowered to half-mast at government buildings and military installations.



TANKER BURNS IN BEIRUT HARBOUR: Black smoke rises from the Maltese-flag 'Giovanna' after the vessel caught fire Sunday in the port of Beirut. A Dutch sailor was slightly injured when fuel from the tanker spilled into the water, starting a blaze that sent up huge columns of smoke visible for kilometres (Reuters photo)

Syria hopes to solve all problems with Turkey

DAMASCUS (R) — The Syrian government has said it hopes to solve all remaining problems with Turkey after the signing of an agreement that ended a row over alleged Syrian support for Kurdish rebels.

The Baath-led National Progressive Front (NPF), grouping heads of seven political parties, said after a meeting chaired by Vice President Zuhair Masharqa on Saturday that all pending problems with Ankara could be solved through dialogue and diplomacy.

A statement by the NPF did not mention the other problems, but diplomats said the front was apparently referring to a dispute with Ankara over water-sharing and Turkey's increasing military cooperation with Israel.

The statement said the meet-

ing listened to a report by Foreign Minister Faruq Al Shara on Syrian-Turkish ties and the latest Palestinian-Israeli deal, which Syria strongly criticised.

The NPF's meeting preceded a visit by Syrian President Hafez Assad to Egypt on Sunday during which he is scheduled to meet his counterpart Hosni Mubarak for talks that would include the Syrian-Turkish row and the Arab-Israeli peace process.

Officials said Assad had phoned Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah on Saturday for talks on the latest developments in the region and issues of mutual interest.

They did not give details, but the leaders of Syria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia often consult on Middle East peace talks and

regional developments.

The NPF's statement said the Syrian coalition also praised the outcome of the first meeting of the Syrian-Turkish security committee in Damascus on Wednesday which called for improvement of ties.

"The meeting of the security committee constituted a good step on the way of solving all pending issues between the two countries," the NPF statement said.

Syria wants Turkey to sign a permanent water-sharing agreement to replace a provisional one that was signed in 1987. Syria also wants Turkey to reconsider its military ties with Israel which improved following a visit by Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz to Israel in September.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Expelled Algerian arrives in Burkina Faso

OUAGADOUGOU (AFP) — Ahmad Zaoui, a former member of Algeria's outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) expelled by Switzerland Thursday, has arrived in Burkina Faso, an informed source said here Saturday. The Swiss justice ministry said Friday that Zaoui, who formed the breakaway FIS coordination council abroad last year, was "expelled with his family Thursday evening to a country which does not wish to be named." Ministry Spokeswoman Nathalie Huguet added: "He posed a security threat for the Swiss state owing to Zaoui's influence over the radical wing of the FIS." Huguet said Switzerland feared an increase of organisational activities of Algerian Islamists on its territory and that more Islamists would enter the country.

Iran wants cooperation with Egypt

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran called on Sunday for a joint stand with Egypt against Israeli "plots," saying such cooperation would help improve relations between the two Muslim states. "Fighting Israeli plots is the best way to solve the existing problems between Iran and Egypt and to bring the two countries closer to each other," Iranian Deputy Parliamentary Speaker Hassan Ruhnani said in talks with the head of the Egyptian Interests section, Mohammed Fahmy Refaie. The official IRNA news agency quoted Ruhnani, who is also secretary of the National Security Council, Iran's top political and military decision-making body, as saying that Tehran and Cairo want closer relations, "as indicated by the current parliamentary exchanges and economic cooperation."

Turkish inmates begin hunger strike

ERZURUM (AP) — Some 50 prisoners are on a hunger strike to protest conditions in a high-security prison of the eastern city of Erzurum, human rights activists said Sunday. Prisoners, who began their hunger strike Wednesday, claim that authorities have refused to grant medical treatment to prisoners injured in recent prison riots. Turkey's Human Rights Association said, "These are all lies. Prisoners are always taken to hospital if in need of medical care," said Cagay Kayiran, in charge of Turkey's penitentiaries.

Turk minister advocates court reforms

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's justice minister said on Sunday he was in favour of reforms to a system of state security courts that has been criticised by European human rights bodies. Justice Minister Hasan Denizkurdu made clear he was not speaking on behalf of the government when he called for alterations to the quasi-military courts. "Personally, the name state security court can even stay but I am in favour of a change," Anatolia news agency quoted him as saying.

Kuwaiti cabinet accepts minister's resignation

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Kuwait's cabinet on Sunday accepted the resignation of a senior minister stepping down for health reasons and who faced a possible grilling over corruption charges.

The official news agency KUNA said Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah voiced understanding for Cabinet Affairs Minister Nasser Al Rodhan's decision and paid tribute to him during the weekly cabinet session.

Sheikh Saad, who is likewise

prime minister, praised Rodhan's "efforts in taking over his responsibilities very faithfully in a critical period of Kuwait's history."

Rodhan, in a statement carried by newspapers on Sunday, said he was resigning for health reasons. "I want a rest," he said.

"What concerns me right now is the immediate discussion of my resignation, which I have tendered for health reasons alone, and which has no relation to any other issue whatsoever," he added.

Rodhan returned from a week-long medical check-up in Germany on Saturday, and said he needed to take a full rest.

While serving as finance minister last year, Rodhan was grilled by the Kuwaiti parliament over allegations of corruption and misappropriation of funds.

He faced a possible second grilling in his post as head of Kuwait municipality, a powerful civic body which has also been accused of embezzlement and corruption.

Iraq jarred by American legal arguments on sanctions

By Evelyn Leopold Reuters

UNITED NATIONS — If President Saddam Hussein allows U.N. inspectors to roam his palaces and scrap all dangerous biological and chemical agents, would eight-year-old stringent trade sanctions be lifted?

France, Russia and China as well as chief weapons inspector Richard Butler say they would be. But Washington disagrees, one reason Iraq says it suspended its remaining links with U.N. inspectors on Saturday.

Baghdad contends it has demolished its weapons of mass destruction, although U.N. arms experts contest this.

Acting the U.N. Special Commis-

sion, in charge of Iraqi disarmament, of spying for the United States, Iraq has banned spot inspections as well as non-intrusive monitoring programmes.

The main reason, according to Baghdad and its U.N. ambassador, Nizar Hamdon, was Washington's position on what Iraq had to do to get sanctions lifted according to a key 1991 Gulf war ceasefire resolution.

Interpretation of the resolution was the subject of a recent closed-door U.N. Security Council debate on the shape and substance of a "comprehensive review" on Iraqi compliance.

The United States says compliance with arms demands is but one of several criteria for lifting some sanctions, such as the ban on oil exports, Iraq's main commodity.

Iraq, it says, also has to return stolen Kuwaiti property, account for missing Kuwaiti prisoners and compensate for its damage to the environment as a result of Baghdad's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, among other demands.

Consequently, there is no agreed position in the Security Council on how to interpret the April 1991 Resolution 687 that set criteria for how sanctions would be lifted.

The resolution, according to most U.N. members, splits requirements for lifting sanctions on imports from those on exports. Lifting the embargo on oil exports, they say, is clearly linked to compliance with weapons demands alone.

The document says in one paragraph

that goods exported from Iraq "shall have no further force or effect" once the council agrees that demands relating to scrapping Iraq's weapons of mass destruction have been fulfilled.

All other requirements, many U.N. diplomats argue, pertain to lifting sanctions on the import of goods to Iraq.

But U.S. officials speak of sanctions as a package and say the oil embargo should not be considered in isolation.

"We believe we need to see a pattern of compliance with all relevant Security Council resolutions, which include more than weapons of mass destruction provisions," State Department spokesman James Rubin said earlier this year.

Some Security Council members believe the vague U.S. threat of eternal

sanctions — particularly as long as Saddam is in power — has handed Iraq a potent argument in claiming that no matter what it does, sanctions will not be eased.

One Japanese diplomat said that he did not believe Iraq's confrontation with the inspectors was the result of the dispute on the resolution. But he said Washington should "get that out of the way and see what happens."

Some legal experts say the complicated resolution could well support the U.S. position of removing all sanctions at once or leaving them all in place until demands are met.

But they note that no council member, including the United States, gave credence to this interpretation when the document was first adopted.

JORDAN TELEVISION

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PROGRAMME TWO

15:10Cartoon — Batman
15:30 Drama — The Game From Down Under
16:00Drama — Neighbours
16:30Doc. — The Internet Cafe
17:00French Programme — Thalys
18:00Drama — Wind at My Back
19:00Le Journal
19:15 French Programme — Science Actualites
19:30News headlines
19:35Comedy — The Partridge
20:00Doc. — The Internet Cafe
20:30Big Sky
21:10Encounter
22:00News in English
22:30FX — The Illusion
23:59End of T.N.

PRAYER TIMES

04:30Fair
05:45(Sunrise) Doha
11:19Dhuhr
14:23Asr
16:50Maghreb
18:08Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweibeh Tel. 5920740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 4632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 4624594
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 4622366

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Anglican Church Tel. 4624533/4624811

St. Afrem Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 4771751

Amman International Church Tel. 5865897

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 5688494

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 5811295

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 4654932

St. John the Baptist at De la Salle College Tel. 5661757

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 4637440

Greek-Orthodox Church Tel. 4646158

Church of Presentation, Sweibeh Tel. 5920146

The Uniate Catholic Church Tel. 4624757

The English-Language Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190

Evangelical Free Church Tel. 4892679

The Baptist Church Tel. 4628052

The Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 4771331

The Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 4775261

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology
Fine weather conditions will prevail

vail with clouds appearing at low altitudes and winds northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be moderate, winds northerly moderate to active, and seas calm.

Min/Max temp. Amman10/23

Aqaba17/28

Deserts09/25

Jordan Valley16/29

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 22 Aqaba 28 Humidity readings: Amman 37 per cent. Aqaba 36 per cent.

Following are the highest temperatures expected today in the following areas:

Ajloun20

Jerash28

Um Qays27

Madaba25

Petra26

Dead Sea31

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Abdul Majid Sha'r4791405

Dr. Khalid M'addi5661144

Dr. Adnan Zaghlool4988140

Dr. Fakher Bileisi5122233

Firas pharmacy5661912

Al Asema pharmacy5347632

Nairoukh pharmacy4623672

Al Salam pharmacy4636730

Yacoub pharmacy4644945

Shmeisani pharmacy4637660

Najib pharmacy5347632

IRBID: Dr. Ali Shugairi027100049

Al Oad pharmacy1

ZARQA: Dr. Walid Halaseh09982799

Khalifeh pharmacy09985417

AMMAN: The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery5921199

The Islamic Abdi5661317

Husein Medical Centre5856856

Luzmila4630195

Khalidi Maternity46442816

Akileh Maternity46424412

Jabal Amman Maternity4642362

Malhas, J. Amman4636140

Palestine, Shmeisani5607071

Shmeisani Hospital5669131

Jordan Hospital5607550

University Hospital5353444

Al-Muasher Hospital56672279

Al-Ahli, Abdi56641646

Italian, Al-Muhayreen477710173

Al-Bashir477511126

Army, Marka489161115

Queen Abla Hospital56024050

Amal Hospital489161115

Abdali Tel. Repairs5661101

Jordan Televi4773111

Railin Jordan4741111

Water Authority5680100

J. Electricity Authority5815615

Electric Power Co.4636381

RJ Flight Information44-53200

Queen Abla Int. Airport44-53200

IRBID: Princess Basma Hospital (RJ)021275555

Roman Catholic Hospital (RJ)021272275

Ibn Al Nafees Hospital (RJ)021710372, 0217103101

Rosary Sisters Hospital (RJ)0217102831, 0217102011

Speciality Hospital0217103100

AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital (RJ)032014111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (41)53200-5, where it should always be verified. Information on other flights can be supplied on phone 44 (52700). Information on Royal Wings flights can be supplied on phone 4875201-5

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

08:00Sanaa (RJ)

08:30Damascus (RJ)

09:00Sanaa (RJ)

09:30Damascus (RJ)

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Change in concept of development benefitting women — Princess Sarvath

LONDON (Petra) — The evolution of the concept of development from one that merely focuses on economic growth to a more comprehensive approach that encompasses the development of society as a whole has resulted in positive gains for women and their status in society. Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath has said.

Within this concept that emerged in the 1980s, "the necessity to improve the status of women through empowerment became an imperative that could no longer be ignored," said Princess Sarvath in a speech at the Soroptimist International Foundation conference in London.

The Princess said education and health were considered two main tools directly relevant to women's empowerment, pointing out that the educational gains made by women opened new avenues and opportunities for them.

Accordingly, said Princess Sarvath, women's role in societies expanded and the nature of their participation evolved to become more effective. In many parts of the world, she added, women seized the opportunity to organise and form their own lobbies in order to have a say in what directly affected their welfare and that of their particular community.

Princess Sarvath told the conference, which was attended by about 1,000 women from different countries, that women's NGOs in Jordan have mushroomed since 1974, when a conference dealing specifically with women's issues was held.

"Not only was the political and social climate con-



ducive to such popular participation, but it was consciously encouraged as a mode to strengthen civil society and enhance the democratisation process in the Kingdom," said Princess Sarvath.

She explained that women in Jordan play an active role in society and work under government regulations that do not put them at a disadvantage with regard to career development and promotion to higher positions.

"However," Princess Sarvath said, "it is unfortunately also true that many women in Jordan, in keeping with their peers in other countries, do find difficulty in reaching the higher positions and, in practice, have been passed over in favour of men, regardless of merit."

"Our labour laws pertaining to working women, although adequate, still fall short of the ideal," she added.

Princess Sarvath pointed out that a number of NGOs are calling, with the involvement and encouragement of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, for the revision of certain laws and drafting of new ones that protect their rights, particularly in labour and personal status.

The status of women has changed, as now women tend to have more control over discussions that affect them directly at both the personal level and at the public level, Princess Sarvath told the conference.

Women in Islam was the subject of two other speeches Princess Sarvath gave at the Shaw House School in Bradford and the 1998 Lord Caradon Lecture.

Princess Sarvath explained that Islam was a potent force for the emancipation of women, giving them unprecedented rights in the legal, social, economic, political and civil spheres.

Regent urges efforts by governments, businesses towards Arab free trade zone

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday urged Arab governments and business communities to do everything in their power to implement programmes connected with the establishment of a free trade zone in the Arab World.

In an address delivered on his behalf by Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh to the opening of the 35th conference of Arab Chambers of Trade, Industry and Agriculture, Prince Hassan called on Arab investors and governments to invest capital within Arab countries, noting that the Arab World's funds currently deposited in other parts of the world are estimated at more than \$600 billion.

"The Arab states have achieved limited success at the official level in the field of economic integration during the past decades," the Regent said.

He expressed hope that the

delegates at the meeting would achieve a qualitative leap that would compel political decision-makers to take into consideration new ideas and elements to achieve this economic integration.

The Regent described the meeting as a good opportunity for deepening dialogue on the subject and for drawing up the outlines of the future Arab economy at the threshold of the 21st century and in a world that is witnessing rapid developments that are presenting the Arabs with new challenges.

In his address, the Regent noted that the "information revolution" and the globalisation of the economy are putting the Arab states face to face with a series of events which makes it impossible for them to pursue the course of development without measures to join the global economy.

The Regent referred to an address His Majesty King

Hussein made to Arab businesspersons at a meeting in Amman last year in which he said: "The state has failed in taking your place and performing your role and your duty, and I believe that the governments in the future should be partners with you in your work and should protect you and support your steps so that you can achieve what is best for the Arab economy and Arab citizens."

The Crown Prince said the conference represents a basic component of inter-Arab economic action and a base from which the Arab countries can move towards wider cooperation and the creation of an Arab common market.

Such a market will take into account the interests of all countries and lay the foundation for an Arab economic bloc that can confront the challenges of the future and withstand the economic powers represented in the major economic blocs in

Europe, America and Asia, said Prince Hassan.

The Regent added that the Arab countries' efforts to achieve economic integration failed in the past decades due largely to conflicting interests and political differences, which subsequently led to a retreat in inter-Arab economic cooperation.

Prince Hassan said an executive programme for free trade has inevitably become an "urgent" necessity.

He noted the "regrettable" fact that trade among Arab countries does not exceed eight per cent of the overall Arab countries' foreign trade volume. The Regent, however, noted that Jordan's trade with Arab countries constitutes around 30 per cent of the Kingdom's total trade volume.

"In Jordan, we were among the first calling for joint Arab action, uniting pan-Arab efforts, and advocating pan-

Arab economic unity and an Arab common market," Prince Hassan said.

He added that an Arab free trade zone would expand and open new markets for Arab products, attract investments and make use of modern technology, of which the Crown Prince said the Arabs are in dire need.

The Regent underlined the role of Arab chambers of trade, industry and agriculture in achieving the free trade zone within 10 years.

He said the economic and financial crises in different parts of the world have negatively affected Arab states. The Regent added that the return of Arab funds deposited abroad can help Arab states find solutions to poverty and unemployment problems that have worsened in the recent years mainly due to the huge increases in population growth and a decline in the level of gross domestic product.



SROUR RECEIVES TURKISH ENVOY: The speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, Sa'd Hayel Srou, receives Turkish Ambassador to Jordan Ahmet Umar at the end of his tour of duty. Srou voiced appreciation for the efforts exerted by the Turkish ambassador to promote bilateral relations (Petra photo)

Two-day public holiday to mark King's birthday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will observe His Majesty King Hussein's birthday with a two-day public holiday on Saturday, Nov. 14 and Sunday, Nov. 15, Information Minister Nasser Judeh said late Saturday evening.

The King's birthday falls on Nov. 14. Speaking after a regular Cabinet session, Judeh also said Nov. 16 will be a holiday to mark Al Israa Wal Miraj (the Prophet's night journey to heaven). All government departments and public institutions will be closed on these three days, he added.

The minister noted that His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent,

has directed the government to organise celebrations on the King's birthday to reflect the Jordanian people's affection for their Monarch.

Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh has set up a special committee to make the necessary arrangements for the event and report by Tuesday to the Cabinet, which Judeh said discussed the various activities which will be carried out during the celebrations.

Judeh added that the planning committee for the celebrations comprises representatives of the ministries of awqaf and Islamic affairs, social development, tourism and antiquities, culture, information and education.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Danish FM arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Danish Foreign Minister Niels Helvig arrived Sunday in Amman as part of a regional tour. The Danish minister said his talks will touch upon bilateral relations and recent developments in the region. He was received upon arrival by Foreign Minister Abdul Ilah Khateib.

Deal on power substation

AMMAN (J.T.) — An agreement between the National Electric Power Company (NEPCO) and a Dutch firm was signed on Sunday in Amman for the establishment of the Suweineh power substation, a NEPCO statement said. Waddah Nabulsi, the company's managing director, and J. Van Gelderen, project development manager of the Holland-based QTECO Projects signed the contract agreement at the company's headquarters. Wael Sabri, the substation's department manager, said 35 per cent of the project's JD5 million cost is being financed by a grant from the Dutch government, while the balance will be paid by the Jordan Valley Authority.

British official arrives today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The parliamentary undersecretary of state in the British Department for International Development (DFID), George Foulkes, is scheduled to arrive in Amman today for a two-day official visit, a British embassy statement said yesterday. Foulkes will meet with Minister of Planning Nabil Ammari and Minister of Social Development Mohammad Khair Mamsar to discuss present and future DFID assistance to Jordan. Foulkes will also visit the Family Protection Unit of the Public Security Department and receive a briefing on the unit's functions and future plans, the statement added.

Police investigating Iraqi's death

AMMAN (J.T.) — The body of a 47-year-old Iraqi was found Sunday behind Al Khalij Hotel in Madaba. Police are investigating the cause of death of the man, identified as Amir Abdul Razzaq.

what's going on

LECTURE

* "Dos romanceros: el gitano y el criollo" (in Spanish) by Dr. V.S. González Quesada at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman on Tuesday Nov. 3 at 5:00 p.m. (Tel. 4610858).

* Home and Away - Local Influence and Commonwealth Colour by Dr. Noha Hommad and Mrs. Anna Obeidat at the British Council, Jabal Amman (5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.).

EXHIBITIONS

* Masterworks of the Spanish Contemporary Architecture and Presentation of Architecture Guide: Spain 1920-2000 at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman, until Nov. 6.

* Ceramics by Ra'd and Ahmad Al Delaimi at Hamamirabi Arts Gallery, Gardens St. (Tel. 5536098), until Nov. 5.

* Exhibition of works by Palestinian artist Kamal Boulas entitled "Homage to Jerusalem," an exhibition of paintings by late Palestinian artist Zulfia Al Sa'idi, an exhibition by Palestinian-American photographer Sa'id Nuseibah entitled "The Farthest Mosque" at Darat Al Faoun, Jabal Weibdeh, until Nov. 12 (Tel. 4643251/2).

Press department urges newspapers to meet law's requirements by deadline

By Alia Shukri Hamzeh

AMMAN — The Press and Publications Department has asked all local papers to rectify their situation in accordance with the 1998 press law.

In an announcement issued last weekend, PPD Director Iyad Qattan said all periodicals had until Nov. 30 to present the department with necessary documents in accordance with the law.

"The government has no intention of prolonging the given grace period, nor does it have any intention of amending or changing any article in the recently passed law," Qattan said.

The 1998 Press and Publications Law went into effect Sept. 1, despite hopes of amendments by journalists, editors, and human rights organisations.

The press body described the new law as a "penal code" for journalists, and human rights organisations said that if the law were not amended it would endanger Jordan's press freedoms.

Several analysts and human rights advocates claimed that many articles in the law contradict both the Constitution and international conventions to which Jordan is a signatory. They also asserted that ambiguous language coupled with exacting penalties,

including a legal mechanism to close down newspapers found in violation of the law, would be used to "harass" journalists and force a regime of self-censorship at newspapers.

But the government has reiterated on several occasions after the law went into effect that it would adopt a "soft" approach in implementing the law and would pursue a peaceful dialogue with the entire press body, the government, however, made no mention of further amendments to the law.

In a statement to the Arabic daily Al Ra'i, Qattan said the announcement reiterating the Nov. 30 deadline was merely a reminder to periodicals so that the department and the press body would not find themselves in a "bottle neck" in the last few days of November.

He said many editors have been avoiding full implementation of the law in hope of further amendments.

In its announcement to around 25 publications, the PPD called on dailies to submit banknotes certifying a capital of no less than JD500,000 and a memo by the Jordan Press Association certifying that the paper's chief editor is a journalist, defined by the JPA as a Jordanian resident who has worked in the profession for a minimum of eight years, has been a member of the

association for at least three years, and has never been convicted of a crime that forced him/her to stop writing.

It also called for the editor to be proficient in the printed language of the publication, both in reading and writing.

Weekly publications were asked to submit the same memo regarding their chief editors, but with banknotes of a minimum capital of JD100,000.

Specialised publications were demanded to produce a capital of JD5,000 and a chief editor with a minimum relevant experience of five years.

According to Qattan, none of the dailies or weeklies have so far presented their credentials to the department, while around six specialised publications have.

Al Ra'i editorial staff said they have not presented their credentials yet because "bureaucratic obstacles" have hampered them from obtaining the needed papers and delivering them to the department.

They said they were keen on cooperating with the PPD in a "civilised and open manner" despite reservations about the law.

Jamal Shawahneh, chief editor of Al Bilad weekly, told the Jordan Times that the weekly had also not presented the PPD with the required docu-

ments. He said the weekly had amended its situation in accordance with the 1997 temporary press law and raised its capital to JD300,000, JD200,000 higher than the current requirement. "We still don't know if the PPD wants us to present them with a new banknote of our capital," he said, adding that the paper will inquire.

As for chief editor requirements, he said that he met all the qualifications and that the weekly plans to present its credentials within the next couple of days.

Al Dustour's chief editor, Nabil Sherif, said his daily had no problem with the requirements of the PPD in terms of its financial status and its chief editor.

"We are in the process of accumulating the needed documents to present them to the department before the given deadline," Sherif said. "However, we think that such a request by the department from a daily that has been in the business for more than 30 years to show compliance with the law is somewhat unusual."

He added that he expected the newspaper to submit its paperwork soon.

Other periodicals also said they will present the department with their credentials soon.

'Jordan's lab accreditation standards comparable to worldwide systems'

By a Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Laboratories Accreditation Department of the Jordan Institution for Standards and Metrology has passed the test for accrediting local laboratories on internationally accepted levels, according to a German government expert.

Joachim Thiele of German Accreditation Council's Committee on International Cooperation said the department's accreditation system is in accordance with European methods.

Four local laboratories, which

recently submitted their accreditation applications to the department, were chosen by the German Accreditation System and the department to see how they fared in terms of manuals, staff and other requirements, based on German standards.

"The Jordanian and German findings were nearly identical," Thiele reported after his three-day official visit here to exchange experiences with the department. "Jordanian laboratory accreditation standards are comparable with other worldwide systems."

According to the head of the Lab-

oratories Accreditation Department, Lina Qudah, the German Agency for Technical Cooperation provided around JD2.4 million from 1987 to 1996 to the Jordan Institute for Standards and Metrology in order to promote a national system for metrology, standards, testing and quality management.

The assistance came under the framework of the Jordanian-German technical cooperation project, which was set up in 1991 and will last until 1999.

Last week, the department held a one-day workshop for 27 participants from the institute, the Royal

Scientific Society and other local public and private laboratories to train them on conducting technical and quality assessments of applicant laboratories.

According to Qudah, the workshop discussed recent accreditation practices in Germany and Europe, the role of technical assessors, validation of in-house test methods and aims of mutual recognition agreements between accreditation bodies.

The seminar underlined the importance of metrology, standards, testing and quality management in increasing exports of Jordanian

goods.

"Improving the management to an internationally accepted level is a declared World Trade Organisation aim to reduce technical barriers to trade and to meet the requirements of several international trade agreements," the workshop concluded.

The Laboratories Accreditation Department, established in 1997, is responsible for accrediting testing and calibration laboratories of the public and private sectors, providing information material to the Jordan Institute for Standards and Metrology and developing the quality management system.

New anti-Catholic gang claims responsibility for latest killing

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — A new Protestant gang opposed to Northern Ireland's prevailing ceasefire claimed responsibility Sunday for the killing of a Catholic civilian.

A caller representing the Red Hand Defenders told the BBC's office in Londonderry that the group fatally shot 35-year-old Brian Service as he walked home alone early Saturday on Belfast's rough north side. The caller also claimed responsibility for another gun attack on a pub in Catholic west Belfast in which nobody was hurt.

The killing demonstrates a new dissident threat within the ranks of Northern Ireland's many outlawed pro-British groups: the Ulster Defence Association, Ulster Volunteer Force and Red Hand Commando, which have observed a joint ceasefire since 1994, and the Loyalist Volunteer Force, which joined the truce after politicians struck a historic peace accord six months ago.

Such groups have killed more than 900 people, mostly Catholic civilians at random, in a three-decade campaign aimed at match-

ing violence committed by the Irish Republican Army. The IRA, the major anti-British paramilitary group with power bases in working-class Catholic areas, has observed a truce for 15 months.

There was no violent reaction when IRA dissidents committed Northern Ireland's worst-ever atrocity in August, a car bomb that killed 29 civilians and wounded 370 others in the religiously mixed town of Omagh.

But Saturday's killing coincided with the failure to meet an important deadline in April's peace accord, which a strong minority of Protestants oppose on the grounds it gives too much to the IRA and its allied Sinn Féin party.

The agreement, supported by eight parties after 22 months of negotiations, called for a new Northern Ireland government to hold an inaugural summit with the Irish government by the end of October. But that symbolically important development has been delayed because Protestant politicians are refusing to include Sinn Féin in the new government unless the IRA starts disarming.

The accord called for both the IRA and outlawed pro-British groups to disarm by mid-2000, but didn't specify a starting point. Both camps have vowed to retain their weaponry indefinitely.

The name "Red Hand Defenders" emerged this summer in Portadown, Northern Ireland's most staunchly Protestant town, where an annual confrontation between Protestant marchers and Catholic protesters has triggered widespread violence.

After police successfully blocked this year's march, the Red Hand Defenders issued death threats against leading Catholic protesters and claimed responsibility for a grenade attack that mortally wounded a police officer.

Portadown is also the power base for the Loyalist Volunteer Force, which killed a dozen Catholics earlier this year. Police and politicians suspect that the Red Hand Defenders is a cover name for Loyalist Volunteers who oppose the group's May ceasefire.

A red-coloured hand, the traditional symbol of the province of Ulster, adorns many Protestant flags and wall murals today.

Military study withheld, altered information about Agent Orange

SAN DIEGO, Calif. (AP) — The U.S. military withheld information about possible links between Agent Orange and birth defects for years, and downplayed the defoliant's link to cancer among Vietnam war veterans, the newspaper said.

The newspaper conducted a six-month investigation into a \$200 million Air Force study, which began in 1979 and has been a key factor in denying compensation to some veterans. It is unclear how many people suffer from the effects of Agent Orange, which was sprayed over wide swaths of jungle by U.S. planes during a 10-year period to strip away cover from North Vietnamese troops and their resupply convoys.

The study tracks the health of about 1,000 veterans who participated in Operation Ranch Hand, a series of Air Force missions that sprayed defoliants over 3.6 million acres of South Vietnam. The study is scheduled to conclude in 2006.

As part of the Ranch Hand study, Air Force scientists in 1984 drafted two reports. According to the newspaper, information from the first report was withheld for years; the other was published but its findings altered, the newspaper said.

"This is a medical crime, basically," said Richard Albanese, a scientist who designed the original study but was later taken off

the project. "Certainly, this is against all medical ethics."

The withheld report focused on birth defects and infant deaths, showing high rates of both among children of Vietnam veterans, the newspaper said.

Language in the second report, which focused on veterans' general health, was altered to show little difference between the studied veterans and a comparison group, according to the newspaper.

A table in the second report showed Ranch Hand veterans by a ratio of 5-to-1 were "less well" than other veterans. But after a White House advisory panel reviewed the report, the table was omitted in the published report, and the lead scientist, Col. George Lathrop, deleted a sentence saying some of the findings were "of concern" and instead wrote the findings were "reassuring."

Lathrop told the Union-Tribune that the changes were minor.

"Fundamentally, the advisory group felt that we were too liberal on the interpretation," Lathrop said.

Albanese contends the changes distorted the report, and that data on cancer rates were misleading because of the way cancer victims were grouped.

Scientists found that Ranch Hand veterans had twice as many cancers as the comparison group, Albanese said. But in the

published report, skin and internal cancers were separated, showing Ranch Hand veterans with 135 per cent more skin cancers and only 20 per cent more internal cancers than the comparison group.

The report suggested the skin cancers were caused by overexposure to the sun and found "no significant group differences" in internal cancers.

"It happened that most cancers were in the skin, and the report said they were just in the skin," said Albanese, who was taken off the project after publicly disagreeing. "That's not a correct inference."

The Air Force in 1987 conceded in a letter to Sen. Tom Daschle, that the 1984 report on cancer and birth defects might be incorrect. In 1988, under Daschle's urging, a report was released containing some details left out of the published 1984 report.

But it wasn't until 1992 that the Air Force released data on birth defects, information that was in the withheld report from 1984.

Joel Michalek, the Ranch Hand study's lead scientist, told the newspaper that the Air Force regrets using the term "reassuring."

"That's a forbidden interpretation," Michalek said. "You can't reassure any one of anything in (statistical studies). You can only establish hazard, not safety."

Christopher Gable, ballet star and actor, dies at 58

LONDON (AP) — Christopher Gable, a leading ballet star who also had a successful acting career on stage and in film, has died of cancer at age 58.

Gable died Oct. 23 at his home in Yorkshire, where he was artistic director of the Leeds-based Northern Ballet Theatre.

The London-born dancer had a famous Royal Ballet partnership with Lynn Seymour, and his first big success was with her in "The Invitation," a new ballet by choreographer Kenneth MacMillan in 1960.

Gable's boyish good looks, grace and fine, athletic style won him early critical success and he became one of the Royal Ballet's most popular dancers. His second partnership with Seymour, in Frederick Ashton's new ballet "The Two Pigeons," in 1961, won the critics' praise when he was only 20.

MacMillan choreographed his celebrated "Romeo and Juliet"

for Gable and Seymour in 1965, but they lost out on the premiere when the ballet management decided to put the more famous Rudolf Nureyev and Margot Fonteyn in the roles.

Even dancing in the second cast, Gable and Seymour were a hit with the critics.

Gable left the Royal Ballet in 1966 and was guest dancer with the Ballet Rambert, but a recurrence of osteoarthritis in his feet led him to concentrate on an acting career.

He did a season with the Royal Shakespeare Company, where he played Lysander in Peter Brook's production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," among other roles.

Gable performed in the theatres of London's West End and in Manchester, northern England, for several years. He appeared in Ken Russell's movies "The Boy Friend," in which he co-starred with Twiggy, in 1971; "Women in

Love," "The Music Lovers," and "The Rainbow".

In 1982 he founded the respected Central School of Ballet in London, and his wife, dancer Carole Needham, was one of the teachers. He remained the school's artistic director.

Gable made an acclaimed return to the ballet stage in 1987 in the lead role in "A Simple Man," about painter L.S. Lowry. The ballet appeared first on television and then went into the repertoire of the Northern Ballet Theatre. Soon after, he became that company's artistic director.

The Northern Ballet Theatre developed a great popular success and won awards in 1990 and 1991 for its productions of "Giselle" and "Romeo and Juliet."

Queen Elizabeth II made Gable a CBE, or Commander of the Order of British Empire in 1996.

He is survived by his wife and a son and daughter.



Shuttle Discovery astronaut John Glenn readies experiments on board the Discovery shuttle. Space travel could be a fountain of youth for elderly astronauts, the 77-year-old Glenn said from his vantage point in the Discovery (Reuters photo)

NASA seeks clues to sleep in Glenn's dreams

HOUSTON (R) — As if the constant poking and prodding were not enough, now NASA wants to know what astronaut John Glenn is dreaming.

The space hero, who is a geriatric guinea pig aboard the shuttle Discovery, was scheduled Sunday night to wear for the first time a web-like helmet with 23 sensors that measure everything from the depth of his breathing to how much he snores.

Upon awakening, he was to record the dreams he had while floating in the heavens 560 km above the Earth.

All this is part of the research on his 77-year-old body to measure the effects of ageing, which are mimicked by space travel.

Saturday, crewmate and physician Scott Parazynski, the man Glenn jokingly calls "Igor" after Dr. Frankenstein's laboratory assistant, drew the first of 10 blood samples from the retiring U.S. senator and injected him with amino acids.

Earlier in the mission, Glenn swallowed an encapsulated thermometer that is measuring his inner temperature as it works its way through his body. He said it was the size of the "biggest vitamin pill you ever saw." Glenn will wear the sleep helmet for four nights, as will Japanese astronaut Chiaki Mukai.

"It's a funny thing to look

at because you're looking like some kind of bug with all this head net on and all the different leads that come off of your head. But it's not that uncomfortable," he said in a Saturday conversation from space with students at schools in Virginia and his native Ohio.

Mukai is taking the hormone melatonin at night to test its effects on sleep, but Glenn is not.

NASA scientists say the sleep research may give insight into why the elderly have problems sleeping on Earth — although Glenn may prove the exception. In a preflight press conference, he said he sleeps just fine at home — eight hours every night. However, he told the students he has slept less than six hours a night aboard the shuttle.

If life as a guinea pig is wearing, Glenn has shown the right stuff by not complaining about it. In fact, the man who in 1962 became the first American to orbit the earth, says the return to space has made him feel like a kid again.

"We just came over Florida ... and all the Bahamas islands just laid out like on a map. It was just absolutely beautiful... That's enough to keep you young up here," he told the students. The frisky septuagenarian and his six crewmates sent a Halloween greeting to Earth Saturday night when they

all held a picture of Glenn in front of their respective faces.

As the astronauts unmasked themselves, a beaming Glenn emerged from behind a picture of himself.

The gag may have poked fun at the world's attention on Glenn to the exclusion of the other Discovery astronauts. But Sunday, the focus shifted, if only briefly, to crewmates Steve Robinson and Scott Parazynski when they performed the mission's main task — the deployment of the Spartan solar physics satellite.

They used the shuttle's 15 metres robot arm to pluck Spartan from the cargo bay, then released it into space where it will fly free for two days.

Instruments on Spartan will take readings of the sun's corona to determine the origins of the solar winds. Scientists hope to learn more about how the solar winds affect the Earth.

A successful deployment would help make up for an embarrassing failure with the same satellite last November, when the crew of shuttle Columbia failed to switch it on before setting it free, then sent it tumbling when they tried to retrieve it with the robot arm.

Two spacewalking astronauts eventually recovered Spartan by hand, but its two-day mission had to be rescheduled.

Hong Kong says won't ask China to surrender crime boss

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong's government announced Sunday it had no plans to ask China to turn over the territory's most-wanted crime boss and denied that its justice system has been undermined by reunification with China.

Cheung Tze-Keung is on trial in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou on charges ranging from weapons smuggling to murder. A Hong Kong government spokesman said Cheung was being tried for crimes allegedly committed in China and "it is therefore inappropriate for Hong Kong to seek his return while court proceedings are underway."

Lawyers for Cheung, who is from Hong Kong, have called for their defendant to be tried in the territory, which does not have a death penalty and where many of Cheung's alleged crimes were committed. Cheung faces the death penalty in China.

Hong Kong democracy leader Martin Lee said Sunday that the territory's government should immediately seek an agreement with mainland authorities to

exchange criminals.

"Until there is an acceptable arrangement governing the rendition of offenders between Hong Kong and the China mainland, the 'one country two systems' really cannot be administered," Lee said on government radio.

China's mini-constitution governing Hong Kong does not address the issue but administrative agreements return Hong Kong residents involved solely in crimes committed in the territory.

Hong Kong reverted to Chinese control last year after 156 years as a British colony. China's "one country, two systems" formula for Hong Kong allows the capitalist territory extensive autonomy.

The Hong Kong government spokesman denied that the case highlighted an erosion of this autonomy.

"There is no question of Hong Kong not doing what it should to assert its jurisdiction over the Cheung Tze-Keung case, given the circumstances involved," he said.

"Whether the alleged crimes in this case occurred before or after 1997 is irrelevant, and there is no question of Hong Kong's judicial system being undermined after or because of reunification with China," he added.

The spokesman also said there was insufficient evidence at the moment to prosecute Cheung in Hong Kong, but investigations are continuing.

Cheung, nicknamed "Big Spender," is on trial on charges of transporting and storing explosives, smuggling weapons and ammunition, murder, kidnapping and robbery.

He is alleged to have been behind the kidnappings of two Hong Kong tycoons in 1996 and 1997.

Local papers reported that final submissions would be made to the Guangzhou Intermediate People's Court early next week.

The trial of the alleged crime boss and 35 suspected members of his gang from both China and Hong Kong began last month.

Some mainland lawyers have predicted about 10 of the Hong Kong defendants, including Cheung, would face the death penalty, the South China Morning Post said last week.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police fire tear gas shells to disperse gathering in Karachi

KARACHI (AFP) — Several people were injured Sunday as Pakistani police fired tear gas shells to disperse activists of a breakaway faction of an ethnic party who had gathered for a convention in violation of an official ban, party sources and residents said. Five leaders including Badar Iqbal, vice-chairman of the MQM-Haqiqi, a splinter group of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), were arrested as hundreds of slogan-chanting activists blocked the road and threw stones, they said. Violence erupted after the authorities denied permission for the MQM-Haqiqi to hold a party convention in the violence-plagued city's eastern Landhi district. Angry youths burned tyres on the roads in protest as hundreds of policemen continued to occupy the venue, witnesses said. Party spokesman Khalid Naqshbandi said around 50 workers received minor injuries. He condemned the police action, saying the convention had been convened to unite the people of Karachi against terrorism. Police fired tear gas after the activists tried to prevent the police arresting leaders, witnesses said. Governor of Sindh province, Moeen Uddin Haider, said the authorities had refused to give permission for the public meeting for law and order reasons. This is the first incident since Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif suspended the provincial government and imposed direct federal rule on Sindh Friday to curb lawlessness and terrorism. More than 3,500 people have died in political, ethnic and sectarian violence during last three years, MQM has been at loggerheads with MQM-Haqiqi since the party split in two in 1992. Hundreds of rivals have been killed in clashes since then.

Investigation into murder of U.N. official in progress

KABUL (AFP) — A senior Taliban official Sunday said the hardline militia was investigating two Pakistanis allegedly involved in the murder of a U.N. military official in Kabul. Qari Deen Mohammad, the Taliban's planning minister, told reporters the Pakistanis nationals had not yet confessed involvement in the Aug. 21 killing. "It is hard to predict when the investigations can produce a concrete result," the minister said. However he said the probe so far showed the two Pakistanis arrested by the Taliban in Kabul were unlikely to be the main culprits. Colonel Camille Calo of Italy was killed in Kabul on Aug. 21, hours after a U.S. cruise missile attack on suspected terrorist camps in eastern Afghanistan. In protest against Calo's killing the U.N. pulled all its 51 international staff from Afghanistan. The world body is now in contact with the Taliban to find ways to allow U.N. expatriates to return to the war-torn country, he added. The planning minister last month signed a security agreement with the U.N. which commits the Taliban to providing "satisfactory reports" to the U.N. on the probe into the murder of Calo and two other local staff, Mohammad Nasir Habibi and Mohammad Hashem Basharyar, killed earlier this year.

Russian space veterans envy Glenn

MOSCOW (AFP) — The first man to walk in space, Russian cosmonaut Aleksei Leonov, dreams of orbiting the earth again on a short mission like his septuagenarian U.S. colleague John Glenn. Leonov said Sunday, Glenn's mission aboard the Discovery space shuttle is that of a "hero," Leonov said. "He earned this flight. At his age, it is the best reward a cosmonaut can hope for." It is the U.S. senator's first trip into space since he became the first American in space in 1962. With this trip, he becomes the oldest man to travel in space. Leonov, who became the first man to perform activity outside his space shuttle when he co-piloted Vokshod 2 in 1965, said he would like to live on the Russian space station Mir for two weeks if he could. Many Russian space veterans — such as Konstantin Feoktistov, Boris Volyunov, Pavel Popovich and Andrian Nikolayev — are younger than Glenn, Leonov pointed out. The oldest of the Russian cosmonauts, Feoktistov, 72, said he feels up to space travel, too. "I am envious of Glenn, but in the best sense of the word," said the cosmonaut, who flew in space only once, in October 1964.

Indian PM rules out signing CTBT in the near future

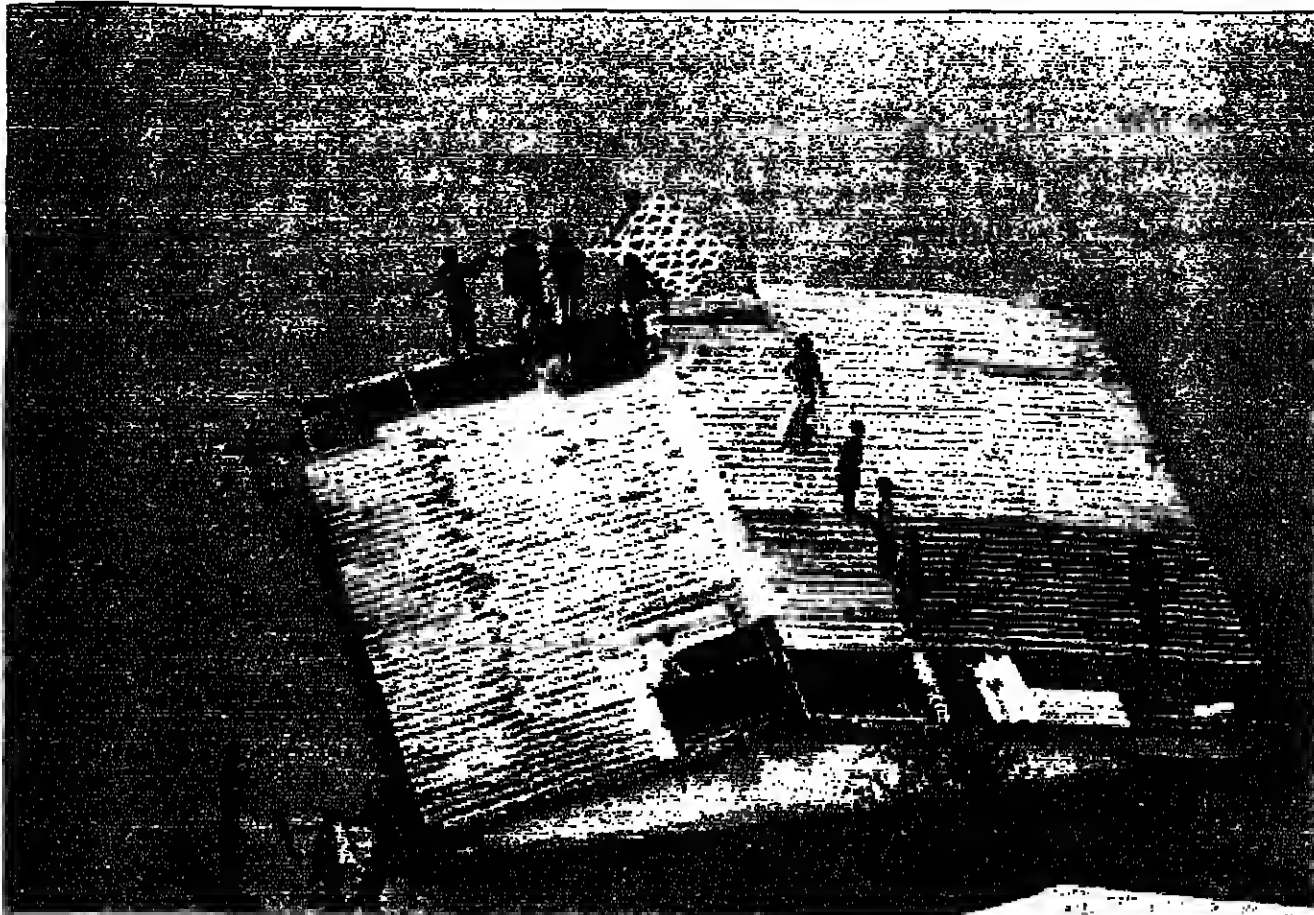
NEW DELHI (AFP) — Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee Sunday said New Delhi was not prepared to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) at present because the situation was not "conducive." I don't know what will happen ultimately. But the present situation is not conducive for signing such a treaty," the Press Trust of India quoted Vajpayee as telling reporters in the southern city of Bangalore. New Delhi and Washington have been engaged in behind-the-scenes negotiations over the treaty, which successive governments in India have refused to sign. India has come under pressure from Washington to sign the CTBT since it conducted nuclear tests in May, triggering a tit-for-tat response from neighbouring Pakistan. Vajpayee told the U.N. General Assembly in New York recently his Hindu nationalist coalition government would sign the treaty by September 1999, but he subsequently said in a magazine interview India had "serious reservations" about the treaty. New Delhi says both the CTBT and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty are biased in favour of the established major nuclear powers.

U.S. founding father Jefferson had child with slave

WASHINGTON (AFP) — It took almost 200 years, but now the truth is out — Thomas Jefferson, the third president of the United States and author of the declaration of independence, did father a child by one of his slaves. Genetic tests on 14 male descendants of Jefferson and his slave mistress, Sally Hemings, show Jefferson was the father of Hemings' youngest son, according to a report in the upcoming issue of the journal Nature. It is also likely that Jefferson fathered up to five other children with Hemings over an 18-year period, but conclusive genetic proof was unavailable, according to the journal. The dispute over an alleged sexual relationship between Jefferson and Hemings "is now settled," said Eric Lander, a DNA expert at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and author of the Nature article. "Jefferson clearly had a long-standing sexual relationship with Hemings," he said. The Jefferson scandal surfaced in 1802 in a story by an opposition journalist from Richmond, Virginia. At the time Jefferson said his private life was no one else's business. However a rare chromosome in Jefferson's DNA sequence, which appeared in the blood samples of the descendants collected for the investigation, proved the journalist correct. Hemings first became pregnant aged 16 when Jefferson, then 45, was the United States ambassador in Paris. Hemings was a maid for Jefferson's 10-year-old daughter Mary, whose mother, Jefferson's wife Martha, died in early 1782. While many U.S. black historians of Jefferson had a tendency to believe the story over the years, one of the main Jefferson scholars — Joseph Ellis, who won the 1997 National Book Award for a major biography — rejected the story.

April 1998

techniques of brain imaging
 a host of biological
 can turn a thought, belief
 of change in cells, tissue



Honduran residents of Valle De Sula stand on the roof of a flooded home. The death toll in Central America after a week of ferocious rains from Tropical storm Mitch swept away shanty towns and flooded cities to the tops of telephone poles climbed to 212, officials said (Reuters photo)

Mitch bringing more rain, death to C. America

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (R) — Floods blamed on Mitch, now a tropical depression, swept hundreds to their deaths in Central America and hundreds more were missing on Sunday after floodwaters sent hills crashing down on villages, officials said.

The storm has killed at least 485 people in the region so far, according to officials in affected countries.

Red Cross workers trekked through remote northwestern Nicaragua to the Casita volcano, where radio reports said 1,000 people may have died when a massive mudslide buried ramshackle villages. Officials say they think 70 people died there.

Guatemala braced for massive flooding as Mitch, once the fourth most powerful hurricane this century, swept across its borders from neighbouring Honduras, where it dumped enough rain to flood city streets to the tops of telephone posts.

At 4 a.m. EST (0900 GMT) The U.S. National Hurricane Centre in Miami said the centre of the storm was 112 km west-northwest of Guatemala City and moving west-northwest at 14 kph with little change expected over the next 24 hours.

Its winds continued at 56 kph, with higher gusts, and the Hurricane centre predicted 12 cm to 25 cm more rain on Sunday in parts of Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and southeastern Mexico.

Its rainfall had slowed from a peak of 62.5 cm per day.

In the southern Mexican state of Chiapas, which borders Guatemala, authorities warned people of Mitch's approach, mindful of the devastation in September when intense floods caused by a series of tropical storms left at least 200 dead on the impoverished state's Pacific Coast.

"This storm has no equal and we cannot dismiss it," the state government said in a bulletin, according to government news agency Notimex.

A rare category five hurricane early in the week with winds of 295 kph, Mitch had left at least 231 people dead in Honduras and another 137 in Nicaragua, not including the 70 bodies pulled from the mud in the shadow of the Casita volcano.

Floods and landslides killed 14 people in Guatemala on Saturday, nine of them near the town of Coban, some 200 km north of Guatemala City. Five of the victims were a mother and her four children, swept

away in a river.

El Salvador declared a state of national emergency and authorities evacuated about 7,000 families from their homes in the southeast of the country near the Honduran border.

In Nicaragua, local radio reported that up to 1,000 people might have been buried alive in a huge landslide on the slopes of the Casita volcano.

But Nicaraguan Red Cross spokeswoman Leonora Rivera said officials in Chinandega, some 90 km north of the capital, Managua, had reported only 70 dead.

Rivera added she believed reports were confusing the population of villages in the area with the death toll, while the Nicaragua head of aid agency Care International, Jan Chollaert, told the BBC most villages there had been evacuated earlier.

Nevertheless, Rivera warned that the death toll in the country was bound to soar.

"These numbers are minimal in comparison with the disasters," she said. "The number of dead will increase considerably once it stops raining and we can get into isolated areas."

Bodies buried in mud littered the flooded streets of the capital

of Tegucigalpa Saturday as rains of almost Biblical proportions began to recede and looters took advantage of the chaos to strip supermarket and shop shelves bare.

As many as a third of the houses in this Central American capital of 1 million people were badly damaged or simply swept away by the raging waters of the Choluteca River and other waterways that run down from nearby hills.

"The capital has been razed," Mayor Cesar Castellanos said.

"Blocks and blocks of middle-class and poor neighbourhoods, shops, they have all been completely razed."

Saturday television crews managed to fly out to the Bay Islands of Guanaja and Roatan, some 50 km off Honduras' Caribbean coast, for the first time in a week.

Guanaja, once a diving and tourism paradise with a population of 10,000, bore the brunt of Mitch when it was still a hurricane, and the film crews said its intense winds had smashed houses and small hotels to bits and snapped most of the trees on the island.

Officials do not have a death toll from Guanaja, but ham radio operators have reported 19 dead.

South Africa's ANC guilty of rights violations, Mandela says

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Sharp contradictions Sunday undermined the ANC's response to truth panel findings that it violated human rights when fighting apartheid, highlighting differences between President Nelson Mandela and his deputy Thabo Mbeki.

The South African head of state backed the report's findings, saying that nobody could deny that people died in African National Congress (ANC) detention camps, despite waging a "just war" against apartheid.

He admitted that he and Mbeki had "a difference of opinion on the matter", flatly contradicting the leadership of the ANC, which Saturday had issued denials of any rift, two days after seeking in vain to delay publication of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) report.

In what the Sunday Times described as a damning indictment of the ANC's decision to seek a court injunction stopping the release, Mandela added: "No doubt if the report had been read, perhaps the response of the ANC would have been totally different."

The paper said Mandela had exposed a huge gulf between his own view and the official party line that the ANC should not take the blame for abuses detailed in the report, as these occurred while it was involved in a just war against white minority rule and racist segregation.

The leadership of the ruling ANC strongly denied that Mandela, 80, and Mbeki, 56, differed over the last-ditch court bid to delay publication of TRC findings resulting from more than two years of probing

crimes by all parties during the apartheid era.

"We happened to respond differently depending on the information we had when we prepared our responses. There's nothing wrong with having a difference of opinion," Mandela said Saturday, according to the Sunday Times.

"The ANC came out very well because the truth commission says the primary responsibility for gross violations of human rights falls squarely on the apartheid government," he added.

"The ANC was fighting a just war, but in the course of fighting the just war, it

committed gross violations of human rights. Nobody can deny that because some people died in our camps and that's what the TRC said."

However, Mandela's backing flew in the face of Mbeki's angry response to the voluminous report in a statement issued by his office Saturday.

"No member of the ANC can ever concur with the scurrilous attempts to criminalise the liberation struggle by characterising the heroic struggles of the people of South Africa which brought about the dawn of peace, democracy and jus-

tice as gross human rights violations," the statement said.

Mandela told a meeting of community leaders in the diamond-mining centre of Kimberley Saturday: "It's not easy for me to be questioned about whether there is a difference of opinion between me and Deputy President Thabo Mbeki on the publishing of the report."

"There's no doubt that Thabo Mbeki had good intentions and may have seen extracts of the report."

Mandela added, nevertheless: "I am convinced my approach was correct and on the basis that he may have not seen the report, he responded on the information he had."

"As a man who read the report and set up the commission and has the highest respect, not only for Archbishop Desmond Tutu, but all the commissioners, I am satisfied they have done a good job, even if there are imperfections. There is no clash."

Tutu, an old friend of Mandela, departed for a sabbatical in the United States this weekend with a warning that South Africans should be wary of the ANC government becoming like the racist apartheid regime it replaced.

"The price of freedom is eternal vigilance and there is no way in which you can assume that yesterday's oppressed will not become tomorrow's oppressors," said Tutu, who admitted being angered by the party's attempts to muzzle the TRC report.

"We have seen it happen all over the world and we shouldn't be surprised if it happens here," he said.

Botha says TRC ignored his submissions

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Former hardline apartheid president P.W. Botha said he was not surprised by South Africa's truth panel report, which cites him for gross human rights violations, an Afrikaans Sunday newspaper reported.

Findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), released Thursday, leave the 82-year-old Botha open to criminal prosecution for presiding over a government committee which brutally enforced apartheid rule.

In his first public reaction to the report, which runs to more than 3,000 pages and was the outcome of 30 months of probing abuses committed between 1960 and 1994, Botha slammed the commission for ignoring his written submission to the body.

"The manner in which I, according to reports, am personally implicated in matters in which neither I nor my government had any involvement, indicates that the truth, and submissions by myself and others, were completely ignored," he told Rapport newspaper.

The former head of state, who said he had yet to see a full copy of the report, added that his own submissions, handed to the TRC in December 1997, had been ignored.

"It is clear to me that the TRC, from the beginning, was not interested in my answers and opinions and the motives of my government and the security forces in countering the onslaught against the state."

He said he had warned last year that the TRC should be careful not to become a "revenge and persecution" commission.

Botha was earlier this year given a suspended jail sentence after he persistently refused to testify in person before the commission.

Macedonians finish choosing new parliament

SKOPIJE, Macedonia (AP) — An opposition coalition was optimistic it can oust Macedonia's ex-Communist government as polls opened Sunday in a second round of parliamentary elections in the young Balkan country.

The outcome is important for international peace efforts for neighbouring Kosovo. NATO wants to use Macedonia as a base for NATO's aerial missions over the province and to station a security force to protect the 2,000-member ground verification force.

The opposition had questioned whether Macedonia should become involved, even indirectly, in the

Kosovo crisis. But the country is member of NATO's Partnership for Peace and observers say that the opposition will probably accept the NATO request.

More than half the legislature's 120 seats were up for grabs after the Oct. 18 first round which left the nationalist-reformist coalition of VMRO-DPMNE and Democratic Alternative with the advantage.

If the opposition forces fail to gain an outright majority in parliament, the country's ethnic Albanian minority may determine whether the ruling Social Democrats remain in power, depending on which party it chooses to

ally with.

The Social Democrats won just 13 of the 55 seats allocated in the first round, trailing both the opposition coalition with 21 and the ethnic Albanians' party with 18. Three seats went to two minor parties, with 65 left undetermined due to a turnout below the required one-third of registered voters or, in other areas, no clear majority.

Macedonia gained independence six years ago when the former Yugoslavia broke up, and is the only ex-Yugoslav republic spared from war. But tensions are high due to its shared border with Serbia's Kosovo

province, where hundreds have died this year in fighting between Serbian government troops and Kosovo's ethnic Albanian separatist guerrillas.

Macedonia has its own large and restive community of ethnic Albanians — 23 per cent of the country's 2 million people. There are fears they could take up arms to win independence for the western part of Macedonia, where many of them live and outnumber Macedonians.

Top issues during the campaign were Macedonia's feeble economy and disputes with neighbours Bulgaria, Albania and Greece.

Both sides straining Kosovo withdrawal

PRISTINA, Serbia (R) — Two weeks after Belgrade agreed to withdraw security forces from checkpoints, observation posts and fighting positions in Kosovo, government and rebel actions are severely testing the deal, observers said Sunday.

"The (Serb) police need a lot more adult supervision if this agreement is going to hold up. They're going where they shouldn't go," said a Western diplomatic observer who asked not to be named.

The KLA (Kosovo Liberation Army) are a problem too. They're strutting around like they own the place. Both sides are pushing the agreement, testing its limits and punting it under strain.

We're rushing to get more people in to keep the lid on." Serb police and Yugoslav army units have been battling ethnic Albanian separatists of the KLA in the Serbian province Kosovo since February.

A government offensive over the summer imperilled so many civilian lives that NATO threatened air strikes if security forces were not pulled back.

A last-minute deal two weeks ago between U.S. special envoy Richard Holbrooke and Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic averted air strikes on condition that police and army units withdrew according to an as-yet unpublished one-page agreement.

Members of the Kosovo Diplomatic Observer Mission (KDOM) told Reuters at the weekend that Yugoslav army compliance with the pull-back accord had been excellent.

The deal required all but three companies of army troops to return to barracks or confine their activities to patrolling the Yugoslav border with Albania and Macedonia.

But KDOM members say Serb police compliance leaves

much to be desired.

While the numbers now deployed in Kosovo are thought to be roughly in line with the agreement, their actions are less so.

Barred from having static checkpoints on highways, the police instead mount multiple, rolling checkpoints.

Reporters in western Kosovo last week encountered three such checkpoints, manned by policemen with Kalashnikov assault rifles, in a 15-km stretch between Decani and Pec.

The purpose of the police pull-back was to enable and encourage the quarter of a million ethnic Albanians driven from their homes in Kosovo to return to their villages.

But the intensive surveillance of main highways is severely limiting the freedom of movement required to get refugees back into their homes by winter.

The police — viewed with hostility by most ethnic Albanians — say they are merely mounting a prudent watch for KLA guerrillas, while the ethnic Albanians complain that any fighting-age male is immediately suspected of KLA ties.

But for their part, the KLA, beaten back by the summer offensive, have been moving swiftly back into areas vacated by the army and police.

Since the KLA were not consulted in detail about the withdrawal agreement and did not sign it, they feel free to accept or ignore its provisions as it suits them.

This has led to KLA observation posts and patrols coming perilously close to police positions, as in the hotly contested area of Malisevo, about 40 km west of Pristina, Kosovo's capital.

Serb police have complained to KDOM that KLA units are sniping at them, allegations that

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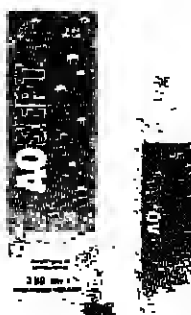
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Fastlink, government given time for out-of-court settlement

By Ghadeer Taher

AMMAN — A court ruling on Fastlink's lawsuit against the government for breach of contract has been postponed to give the parties more time to reach an out-of-court settlement.

Government officials confirmed the postponement but declined comment stating that negotia-

tions with Fastlink were still under way.

"The court postponed its verdict because we are in serious negotiations, and there is enough common ground," Fastlink Chief Executive Officer David Bosworth told the Jordan Times. "It is in the best interest of everyone involved to resolve the issue out of court."

Bosworth said he was

optimistic that an agreement with the government could be reached within three weeks.

The case, filed on Dec. 15, is now before the High Court of Justice and the court had been expected to issue a ruling on Oct. 28.

Fastlink, the country's sole mobile service provider with over 60,000 subscribers, alleges that the government violated an agreement with the firm when it made a decision last October to grant a second mobile licence to the Jordan Telecommunications Corporation (JTC) before the end of Fastlink's Nov. 1, 1998 exclusivity period, and without issuing a tender.

Officials said earlier that the government had planned to issue the second mobile licence after Nov. 1, resolving a major point of contention.

According to sources familiar with the case, the court's delay will give the government time to consider its options after it suspended the sale of a 40

per cent stake of the state-owned telecommunication firm to a strategic partner. The company was to be given the mobile licence to sweeten the deal to attract foreign investors.

"The telecommunications ministry is reviewing the strategy for privatising the telecommunications firm, which could impact the sector as a whole," said one observer. "The terms of the Fastlink-government lawsuit could change entirely depending on the strategy that is chosen."

The government last week announced it was suspending the sale of a stake in the telecommunications firm after one of the two companies vying for the deal pulled out.

Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh said the government was now looking into different scenarios to privatise the company "that might lead us to reassess our policies."

Industry sources speculating on the course the government might take, said it was unlikely that

the government would reissue a tender for a strategic partner investor. Instead it would look to sell a smaller share of the company to both foreign and domestic investors.

"Since the strategic partner option is most likely no longer on the table, then the government may try to sell the second mobile licence in an open tender to bring in desperately needed cash to the treasury," said one source.

If the government pursues this course, observers said, then another issue of dispute with Fastlink would also be resolved.

Fastlink and the government are also discussing a possible reduction in interconnect fees, 60 fils at peak time and 40 fils off-peak, and an increase in frequency allocations.

Also Fastlink, which has a 20 per cent revenue sharing agreement with the government, is insisting that the next licensee be subjected to the same conditions.

GALLERIA

SUNDAYS
SEVEN NIGHTS

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Put in the extra effort to hold your temper. You're itching to tell the truth, but don't tell it in anger. Let the dust clear before you plan your next move. Decisions made this week could influence your pocketbook. Protect your own future by keeping more of what you earn.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Don't let someone else's emergency cause a problem for you. Calm others down, and the emergency will solve itself. Be careful with the choices you make tomorrow and Wednesday. You may have to live with them for a long time. You're setting an example for the others, though. Through compromise, you can all build a trustworthy foundation.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Don't get stirred up over a work-related conflict. If you let your partner know how you feel, that ought to be enough. Keep the others out of it for now, especially if you're angry. You may not have all the facts yet. Reach a compromise tomorrow that supports your most cherished beliefs. Don't sacrifice one to gain another.

CANCER: (June 22 to July 21) Anticipate agitation from higher up, and maybe even an outburst of bad temper. Keep your head down, especially if controversial subjects are being discussed. You've already got your mind pretty well made up, but listen to the facts. Make sure your friends are really headed in the direction you want to go before you go along for the ride.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Let a friend break through your crusty exterior and give you a little information. You wouldn't have thought of this ordinarily, because you had your mind made up. There's something you need to consider, however, that's a little confronting. Don't resist an angry tone of voice. Let the information penetrate your defences.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You're worried about money, but don't panic. Use a method you already know to shut off a leak and protect your resources. Your practical decision tomorrow will bring future rewards, and on Wednesday, you can find a way to buy your loved one something special. Don't let somebody else's

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1998

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

anxiety put you into a tailspin later this week.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A surprising confrontation could lead to a new friendship today. A rule you don't want to obey could turn out to be

good for you and help you achieve your lifelong ambitions. So don't resist one who's trying to give you coaching, even if you don't like what you're hearing.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Put up with an irritating co-worker today. He or she may have a couple of good points. Just because this person is insensitive in some areas doesn't mean you should ignore all of his or her advice. If you're too rigid, you could cause results opposite from the ones you intended.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You'd rather goof off than work today. Use your restlessness to push yourself to try something you've been thinking about. There's plenty of work, some of it frustrating. It's going much more slowly than you'd hoped, and possibly veering in a direction you don't like. Keep telling the truth and you'll help things stay on track.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You're still cleaning up after this weekend, but that's OK. While you're at it, make some changes you've been thinking about. Once things are thoroughly disrupted, it's a good excuse to put them the way you always wanted them. This is a good time for it, because structures you build tomorrow and Wednesday should be solid.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You're even more intelligent than usual today, and you'll need the extra brain power and quick wit to outmanoeuvre a tough competitor. Get in your two cents' worth early and you'll shift the way things are decided tomorrow. If you don't speak up at all, you could lose an important benefit.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) There's something you can do to improve your lot in life, but you won't get there by accident. It'll take planning. You're trying things you haven't done before, so you might be a little nervous, but following a strong leader helps. Don't go on fantasy in this situation. Make sure you're following someone you can trust.

Arab Bank launches Visa Electron Card

ARAB BANK has started issuing the new Visa Electron Card to customers in Jordan. The Visa Electron Card is a debit card used at outlets locally and internationally, and to withdraw cash from more than 450,000 ATM worldwide.

The card is accepted at merchants and service centres, which display the "Visa Electron" decal (the number of which worldwide is more than one million). The cardholder can use the card also to withdraw cash and inquire about the account balance from ATMs which display "Visa or Electron or Plus" decals internationally. The Arab Bank Visa Electron Card can be used also as an ATM card to obtain the services offered by the Arab Bank ATM network in Jordan.

The Arab Bank is the first bank in Jordan to offer this new card, and has issued it previously to customers in the United Arab Emirates.

The card is issued with the photo of the customer, and any customer can get the new card if an application with two photos is provided.

It is worth mentioning that the Arab Bank has issued the Visa Gold and Classic cards to customers in 1993.

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Return to the Dhiban Plateau yields 198 unknown sites

ONE OF the wealthiest areas in Jordan in terms of the density, size and quality of ancient sites is the Dhiban Plateau — a dramatic, easily accessible region that international and Arab scholars have been exploring for the past 175 years.

So what happened in the past two years when an American-Korean-Jordanian survey team set out to systematically explore the Dhiban Plateau? They re-visited 17 known antiquities sites that previous scholars had documented — and identified another 198 sites that had never been known before.

The striking results of this work highlight yet again the urgency of surveying more of the Jordanian landscape — and the utility of re-visiting sites that scholars had examined and dated earlier this century.

The Archaeological Survey of the Dhiban Plateau is a joint project co-directed by Chang-Ho C. Ji of La Sierra University (Riverside, California) and Jong-Kaun Lee of Korean Sam Yook University (Seoul, Korea). It is yet another of the numerous archaeological projects that have been spawned by the Madaba Plains Project (MPP) in recent decades. The pilot reconnaissance survey of the area was conducted in 1996 under the auspices of the MPP, but as of the first full survey season in 1997 the Dhiban Plateau Survey has been an independent project under the auspices of its two sponsoring universities.

The survey project's primary aim is

"to understand the occupational history and settlement pattern of the Dhiban Plateau, and the political, social, ecological and economic reasons for those patterns," Ji said in a recent interview in Amman. Additional goals are to locate new sites; re-visit and date sites noted by previous scholars (especially Nelson Glueck in the 1930s); fill in the geographical gap between major surveys that others have completed in the Karak Plateau to the south and the Madaba Plains region to the north; and, to document sites and compare settlement patterns in two specific parts of the Dhiban Plateau — er-Ramah es-Saliya area on the southeastern edge of the plateau, overlooking the Wadi Mujib, and the 'Aliyyan-'Ammuriya area on the northern edge of the plateau, alongside the south bank of Wadi Wala.

The survey area of some 250 square kilometres comprises the semi-arid Dhiban Plateau flatland stretching between Wadi Mujib in the south and Wadi Wala in the north, and from Dhiban town in the west to the Desert Highway to the east. This area has been repeatedly visited and examined by scholars during the past 175 years (ever since the Americans Irby and Mangels explored the area in 1823). Major excavations have taken place at townsites such as Dhiban, Lehun, Aroer, Khirbet Mudayyina, and Umm er-Rasas, and other significant settlement remains have been documented at Rameil, Musaytiba, Ramah, Saliya,

Jumayl, Aqraba, Mdayyneh, Qahqah, and other sites.

Despite these previous projects in the area, the survey team identified 198 new sites among the 215 sites they visited. The survey results included a fascinating range of information about the geographical, chronological and functional distribution of ancient sites on the Dhiban Plateau, notably:

— the time periods documented by the pottery evidence included Chalcolithic/Early Bronze (25 sites, or 12% of the total sites visited), Late Bronze (3% of sites), Iron I (6%), Iron II (13%), Persian (4%), Hellenistic (14%), Roman (26%), Byzantine (35%), Early Islamic (10%) and Late Islamic (8%).

— the majority of sites (80%) were located in a two-kilometre-wide belt along the northern and southern edge of the plateau, often in close proximity to each other, with 18% on the central plateau and just 3% along the bottoms of wadis.

— by type or function, the survey sites comprised watchtowers (61% of all sites), cities/villages (11%), agricultural dams or water cisterns (17%), farmsteads (6%), roads (1%), and cemeteries (1%). A full 75% of sites along the plateau rim were watchtowers; these were conspicuously absent from the plateau's central plain, where 85% of documented sites comprised agricultural dams, cisterns, or rock-cut features such as cupholes and basins, without evi-

dence of adjacent architecture. This veritable encircling of the Dhiban Plateau by a chain of watchtower-like settlements in ancient times, especially in the Iron and Hellenistic-to-Byzantine periods, was probably not related to defence of the area, Ji said (though defensive purposes probably explain the presence of several fortified townsites or fortresses along wadi rims during the Iron Age, such as at Lehun, Aroer, Saliya and other sites). Since the towns were spread throughout the entire survey area and apparently were located near roads, he added, the ancient road system seems to have played a major role in determining the urban settlement pattern. Also, he notes, defence may not have been the dominant factor in determining where people lived; other relevant factors seem to have been the nomadic economy, unequal social structure, climate, water availability, transportation, and the tribal system.

The two sub-regions examined at the northern and southern limits of the Dhiban Plateau "showed a marked similarity in the fairly uneven distribution of ancient settlement sites from period to period," Ji said. The Middle and Late Bronze and Persian periods were "virtually unrepresented," then there were "huge representations" of population in the Roman and Byzantine periods, followed by "a substantial decline in population during the Early and Middle Islamic periods."

He suggested that this could reflect a broad ancient settlement cycle throughout the entire plateau, with "a gradual and continuous increase of settlement from the Iron I to the Byzantine period, with only a short-term decrease in the Persian period."

Among the new discoveries from the last two seasons of fieldwork was the identification of a possible Early Bronze Age temple near Khirbet es-Saliya (an important fortified site during the Iron and Roman-Byzantine eras), and a possible Iron Age I fortress (Qasr el-Manqada'a) overlooking the Wadi Mujib, with walls still standing over two metres high. Pottery at the impressive site of Khirbet Musaytiba (its walls standing over three metres high, just north of the road nearly seven kilometres southeast of Umm er-Rasas) indicates that the earliest occupation at the site was in the Late Bronze Age II and the Iron Age I, while the large townsites of Khirbet Qahqah is now known to have been an important settlement from the Hellenistic through the Middle Islamic eras.

The survey team discovered the new site of Rujm er-Rameil South, which seems to have been a roadside fortress designed to control commercial traffic and secure the frontier between the settled and nomadic zones. Another discovery several kilometres north of Dhiban town was that of a station with five Roman road milestones, including one with a Latin inscription, perhaps indicating



By Rami G. Khouri

that the road at this point was repaired or remodelled five times.

The survey results confirmed that some of the sites visited by earlier scholars need to be dated more accurately, i.e. at Rujaym Salim and Khirbet Mdayyneh Saliya, the pottery collected dated back to the Iron I period, well before Glueck's Nabataean dating of the sites. The first two seasons of this project indicate that many sites in the Dhiban Plateau remain to be discovered and other known sites deserve re-examination.

"The Dhiban Plateau seems to have a unique settlement pattern and occupational history, one somewhat different from the Madaba Plains to the north and the Karak Plateau to the south," Ji concluded. The work of the Dhiban Plateau Survey will continue for several more seasons. It has been funded to date by LaSierra University, Korean Sam Yook University, Riverside Korean Seventh Day Adventist Church, Photo Image Network Ltd., and individual donors. The Department of Antiquities representatives during the first two field seasons were Tayseer Atiyat and Ahmad el-Shami.

Health

It's mind over matter, scientists discover, as placebos prove sweet to swallow

of Connecticut who carried out the review. His findings were met with a great deal of scepticism.

And a recent study of a baldness remedy found that 86 per cent of men taking it either maintained or showed an increase in the amount of hair on their heads. But so did 42 per cent of the men taking a placebo.

Some studies are specifically designed to explore the power of placebos rather than drugs.

On Coche Island in Venezuela, asthmatic children were given a sniff of vanilla along with a squirt of medicine from a bronchodilator twice a day.

Later, the vanilla odour alone increased their lung function, 33 per cent as much as did the bronchodilator alone.

And at Tulane University in New Orleans, Dr. Eileen Palace is using a placebo to restore sexual arousal in women who say they are nonorgasmic.

The women are booked up to a biofeedback machine that they are told measures their vaginal blood flow, an index of arousal. Then they are shown sexual stimuli that would arouse most women.

But the experimenter plays a trick on the women by sending, within 30 seconds, a false feedback signal that their vaginal blood flow has increased. Almost immediately they then become genuinely aroused.

Placebos are about 55 per cent to 60 per cent as effective as most active medications like aspirin and codeine for controlling pain, Dr. Kirsch said. Moreover, placebos that relieve pain can be blocked with a drug, naloxone, that also blocks morphine.

For a while, many scientists thought that placebos might work by releasing the body's natural morphinelike substances, called endorphins. But that is not the only explanation, he said.

While placebos can act globally on the body, they can also have extremely specific effects.

For example, a study was carried out in Japan on 13 people who were allergic to poison ivy.

Each was rubbed on one arm with a harmless leaf but was told that it was poison ivy and touched on the other arm with poison ivy and told that it was harmless.

All 13 broke out in a rash where the harmless leaf contacted their skin. Only 2 reacted to the poison leaves.

Studies have shown, time and again, that placebos can work wonders. Like "real drugs," they can cause such side effects as itching, diarrhoea and nausea. They can also

lead to changes in pulse rate, blood pressure, electrical skin resistance, gastric function, penis engorgement and skin conditions.

The question is, why? Explanations of why placebos work can be found in a new field of cognitive neuropsychology called expectancy theory — what the brain believes about the immediate future.

Like classical conditioning theory (Pavlov's dogs salivate at the sound of the bell), expectancy involves associative learning. The medical treatments you get during your life are conditioning trials, Dr. Kirsch said.

The doctor's white coat, nurse's voice, smell of disinfectant or needle prick have acquired meaning through previous learning, producing an expectation of relief from symptoms.

Each pill, capsule or injection is paired with active ingredients, and later, if you get a pill without active ingredients, you can still get a therapeutic effect, he said.

Such conditioning shows how expectations are acquired, Dr. Kirsch said.

But it does not explain the strength and persistence of placebo effects. These responses occur almost instantly, with no apparent conscious thought, and are therefore wired firmly into the brain, he said.

Response expectations are strong because the world is filled with ambiguity. A long thin object seen in dim light could be a stick or a snake. But it may not be safe to take the time to find out. So people evolved a mechanism to anticipate what is going to occur.

This expectation speeds the perceptual processing at the expense of accuracy.

As in the outside world, people's internal states have inherent ambiguity. That is why, when people in an experiment were given a drug that produced a surge of adrenaline, they interpreted the feeling as anger, euphoria or nothing at all, depending on what they had been told to expect.

Critics of alternative medicine say its enduring appeal is explained by the placebo effect. When conventional therapies fail to help chronic or poorly understood conditions, the acupuncturist, homeopathist or chiropractor steps into the breach with a potent belief system ready-made to help the suffering patient.

"If a guy in a white coat or a guy dressed in feathers can induce a patient's immune system to fight back, who is to say which is better?" said Dan Moleman, a medical anthropologist at the University of Michigan at Dearborn.

Cot death link to smoking parents

By Jeremy Laurance and Brian Morgan

A QUARTER OF cot death babies have as much nicotine as habitual smokers in their bodies just before they die, researchers have found.

Nine out of 10 had levels indicative of "significant exposure," says a Scandinavian study in the U.S. Journal of Pediatrics.

It provides the first direct evidence linking nicotine and cot deaths, adding weight to earlier research indicating that parents who smoke put their babies at risk.

The study is the first to measure directly levels of nicotine in the children's bodies to see whether death coincides with heavy parental smoking. Previous studies linking smoking and cot death have relied on what parents said about their smoking habits. That was not considered scientifically reliable.

The team, led by Josphe Milerad, neonatologist at the Department of Women and Child Health in the Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, took samples of pericardial fluid, the fluid present in the sac surrounding the heart, from every child under seven who had died suddenly in the greater Oslo region between 1990 and 1993. The 45 consecutive victims included 24 dying from sudden infant death syndrome, or SIDS. The rest died in accidents or from infection. The pericardial fluid was tested for the nicotine by-product cotinine, which, because of the way the body metabolises the nicotine, indicates the level of exposure from four to eight hours before deaths.

The research team could not compare nicotine levels in the cot death babies with normal healthy babies, as they would have liked, because blood samples from the cot

death victims were not available, and taking pericardial fluid from around the heart could not be performed on healthy babies. They were therefore left with a control group of children who had died in accidents or of infections.

Among the children who died of infections, two-thirds showed evidence of nicotine exposure but none had the high levels found in a quarter of the cot death victims.

Dr. Milerad said current advice not to smoke near babies and children was not strong enough. He said the advice was based on averting diseases such as asthma, but the study suggested that nicotine posed a more direct risk. Studies of rats and unborn babies have indicated that exposure to nicotine depresses the body's response to a fall in oxygen and delays arousal from sleep.

He said: "If you ask mothers whether they smoke near their babies, you get the answer that it's not so much — but we have shown how strong the link is between smoking and cot death."

The study concludes that "SIDS is almost all cases preceded by a significant exposure to nicotine. (and) acute heavy exposure may play a role in the mechanisms of SIDS."

A spokeswoman from the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths said: "This study confirms the findings of FSID-funded research and other studies worldwide, clearly showing that babies exposed to tobacco smoke are at increased risk of cot death. It supports advice that mothers should cut out smoking during pregnancy — fathers too. Parents should create a smoke-free zone by not smoking in the same room as their baby and by avoiding smoky atmospheres."

— The Independent

By Sandra Blakeslee

MANY DOCTORS know the story of "Mr. Wright," who was found to have cancer in 1957 and was given only days to live. Hospitalised in Long Beach, California, with tumours the size of oranges, he heard that scientists had discovered a horse serum, Krebiozen, that appeared to be effective against cancer. He begged to receive it.

His physician, Dr. Philip West, finally agreed and gave Mr. Wright an injection on a Friday afternoon. The following Monday, the astonished doctor found his patient out of his "death bed," joking with the nurses.

The tumours, the doctor wrote later, "had melted like snowballs on a hot stove."

Two months later, Mr. Wright read medical reports that the horse serum was a quack remedy. He suffered an immediate relapse. "Don't believe what you read in the papers," the doctor told Mr. Wright. Then he injected him with what he said was "a new super-refined double strength" version of the drug. Actually, it was water, but again, the tumour masses melted.

Mr. Wright was "the picture of health" for two more months — until he read a definitive report stating that Krebiozen was worthless. He died two days later.

Doctors who know this story dismiss it as one of those strange tales that medicine cannot explain. The idea that a patient's beliefs can make a fatal disease go away is too bizarre.

But now scientists, as they learn that the placebo effect is even more powerful than anyone had been able to demonstrate, are also beginning to discover the biological mechanisms that cause it to achieve results that border on the miraculous.

Using new techniques of brain imagery, they are uncovering a host of biological mechanisms that can turn a thought, belief or desire into an agent of change in cells, tissues

— International Herald Tribune

Hakkinen, McLaren celebrate double championship

SUZUKA (AFP) —

Flying Finn Mika Hakkinen stormed to his first World Championship Sunday with a runaway victory in the Japanese Grand Prix after an exploding tyre stopped his only challenger Michael Schumacher.

The 30-year-old Hakkinen, who nearly died in a high-speed accident three years ago and whose first Grand Prix win came only a year ago, led the race from start to finish in a Mercedes-powered McLaren.

Schumacher grimly fought back up to third place after disastrously stalling on the grid with a clutch problem and starting from the back of the field.

But his superhuman efforts came to no avail when his tyre exploded on the 32nd lap and his red Ferrari rolled to a halt. It ended the quest for a third world title by the brilliant 29-year-old German who had needed to win or finish second to have any hope of capturing the title.

Hakkinen's team also sealed their first Constructors Championship since the late Brazilian Ayrton Senna clinched his third crown in a Honda-powered McLaren seven years ago.

Irishman Eddie Irvine, Ferrari's number-two, finished the race runner-up 6.5 seconds back and Hakkinen's McLaren team-mate Scotsman David Coulthard was third, with former champion Damon Hill fourth in a Jordan.

As the jubilant McLaren team celebrated winning their season-long battle with Ferrari, Hakkinen conceded the championship race "has been a fight" but that the final race had not been the most difficult.

"There is always one problem when you are leading easily like that," he said. "It happened to me with about 10 laps to go. Your mind starts thinking about things other than driving. I almost started whistling inside the car."

Hakkinen completed the 51 lap race in 1hr 27min 22.535sec at an average speed of 205.229 kph (127.527 mph).

"I don't know how to start telling you my feelings," Hakkinen said with tearful eyes as he reflected on his first World Championship crown. "It has taken a long time."

The win caps a remarkable comeback after a high-speed practice session crash in Adelaide in November 1995 which fractured his skull and stopped him breathing.

Doctors performed a tracheotomy at the scene to save his life as rumours swept the pitlane that he had died, but he fought back to fitness and returned to the race track the following February.

Hakkinen became Finland's second World Champion after Keke Rosberg in 1982.

Rosberg has been Hakkinen's manager since his F1 debut in 1991, the same year Schumacher entered the Grand Prix fray. The pair had already enjoyed tense rivalry in international Formula Three.

Formula One World Champions

1950 - Giuseppe Farina (Ita) Alfa Romeo	1972 - Emerson Fittipaldi (Bra) Lotus Ford
1951 - Juan Fangio (Arg) Alfa Romeo	1973 - Jackie Stewart (Gbr) Tyrrell Ford
1952 - Alberto Ascari (Ita) Ferrari	1974 - Emerson Fittipaldi (Bra) McLaren Ford
1953 - Alberto Ascari (Ita) Ferrari	1975 - Niki Lauda (Aut) Ferrari
1954 - Juan Fangio (Arg) Mercedes/Maserati	1976 - James Hunt (Gbr) McLaren Ford
1955 - Juan Fangio (Arg) Mercedes	1977 - Niki Lauda (Aut) Ferrari
1956 - Juan Fangio (Arg) Lancia/Ferrari	1978 - Mario Andretti (USA) Lotus Ford
1957 - Juan Fangio (Arg) Maserati	1979 - Jody Scheckter (Rsa) Ferrari
1958 - Mike Hawthorn (Gbr) Ferrari	1980 - Alan Jones (Aus) Williams Ford
1959 - Jack Brabham (Aus) Cooper Climax	1981 - Nelson Piquet (Bra) Brabham Ford
1960 - Jack Brabham (Aus) Cooper Climax	1982 - Keke Rosberg (Fin) Williams Ford
1961 - Phil Hill (USA) Ferrari	1983 - Nelson Piquet (Bra) Brabham BMW
1962 - Graham Hill (Gbr) BRM	1984 - Niki Lauda (Aut) McLaren TAG
1963 - Jim Clark (Gbr) Lotus Climax	1985 - Alain Prost (Fra) McLaren TAG
1964 - John Surtees (Gbr) Lotus Climax	1986 - Alain Prost (Fra) McLaren TAG
1965 - Jim Clark (Gbr) Lotus Climax	1987 - Nelson Piquet (Bra) Williams Honda
1966 - Jack Brabham (Aus) Brabham Repco	1988 - Ayrton Senna (Bra) McLaren Honda
1967 - Denny Hulme (Nzl) Brabham Repco	1989 - Alain Prost (Fra) McLaren Honda
1968 - Graham Hill (Gbr) Lotus Ford	1990 - Ayrton Senna (Bra) McLaren Honda
1969 - Jackie Stewart (Gbr) Matra Ford	1991 - Ayrton Senna (Bra) McLaren Honda
1970 - Jochen Rindt (Aut) Lotus Ford	1992 - Nigel Mansell (Gbr) Williams Renault
1971 - Jackie Stewart (Gbr) Tyrrell Ford	1993 - Alain Prost (Fra) Williams Renault
1972 - Emerson Fittipaldi (Bra) Lotus Ford	1994 - Michael Schumacher (Ger) Benetton Ford
1973 - Jackie Stewart (Gbr) Tyrrell Ford	1995 - Michael Schumacher (Ger) Benetton Renault
1974 - Emerson Fittipaldi (Bra) McLaren Ford	1996 - Damon Hill (Gbr) Williams Renault
1975 - Niki Lauda (Aut) Ferrari	1997 - Jacques Villeneuve (Can) Williams Renault
1976 - James Hunt (Gbr) McLaren Ford	1998 - Mika Hakkinen (Fin) McLaren-Mercedes



Finnish F1 driver Mika Hakkinen of McLaren-Mercedes is carried by his British teammate, David Coulthard (R) and Eddie Irvine (L) on the podium of the Formula One Japanese Grand Prix in Suzuka Sunday. Hakkinen won the race and won the world drivers championship while Irvine finished second and Coulthard third (AFP photo)

Constructors Champions

1958 - Vanwall (Gbr)	1979 - Ferrari (Ita)
1959 - Cooper (Gbr)	1980 - Williams (Gbr)
1960 - Cooper (Gbr)	1981 - Williams (Gbr)
1961 - Ferrari (Ita)	1982 - Ferrari (Ita)
1962 - BRM (Gbr)	1983 - Ferrari (Ita)
1963 - Lotus (Gbr)	1984 - McLaren (Gbr)
1964 - Ferrari (Ita)	1985 - McLaren (Gbr)
1965 - Lotus (Gbr)	1986 - Williams (Gbr)
1966 - Brabham (Gbr)	1987 - Williams (Gbr)
1967 - Brabham (Gbr)	1988 - McLaren (Gbr)
1968 - Lotus (Gbr)	1989 - McLaren (Gbr)
1969 - Matra (Fra)	1990 - McLaren (Gbr)
1970 - Lotus (Gbr)	1991 - McLaren (Gbr)
1971 - Tyrrell (Gbr)	1992 - Williams (Gbr)
1972 - Lotus (Gbr)	1993 - Williams (Gbr)
1973 - Lotus (Gbr)	1994 - Williams (Gbr)
1974 - McLaren (Gbr)	1995 - Benetton (Gbr)
1975 - Ferrari (Ita)	1996 - Williams (Gbr)
1976 - Ferrari (Ita)	1997 - Williams (Gbr)
1977 - Ferrari (Ita)	1998 - McLaren (Gbr)

It was a disappointing end to the season for Ferrari, who were seeking their first driver's title since South African Jody Scheckter in 1979 and their first Constructors crown since 1983.

Schumacher said his tyre had not punctured but had literally exploded without warning after he blazed his way from the back of the pack overtaking two former champions, Hill and Villeneuve, along the way.

It appeared he had run over debris from a collision between Toranosuke Takagi's Tyrrell and Esteban Tuero's Minardi, and it took him several hundred metres to bring the Ferrari to a halt.

"I did not expect a rear tyre to explode as I had a flat-spotted front, which caused a lot of vibration," Schumacher said.

He had the meagre consolation of fastest lap time of 1:40.190 on the 19th lap, averaging 210.703 kilometres per hour.

Schumacher said he was a "little bit disappointed" but "at the end of the day we have done a good job and we can be pretty proud of what we did."

"It was not supposed to be our championship," he said, blaming his team's slow start to the year when the McLaren team dominated and built up a big points lead.

"We lost it at the beginning of the season and you can't really complain."

But he added, "Life goes on and now we must look forward to trying again next season."

Ferrari manager Jean Todt said: "The unexpected tyre problem, whose cause we do not know, robbed us of any chance." The Williams of Heinz-Harald Frentzen and outgoing champion Jacques Villeneuve finished fifth and sixth, capping a year of frustration for the once-dominant team after designer and aerodynamic whizz Adrian Newey left them for McLaren last season.

Hakkinen's victory boosted him to 100 points in the championship, ahead of Schumacher with 86, Coulthard 56 and Irvine on 47.

Villeneuve could only manage fifth place on 21 points.

In the Constructors race, McLaren-Mercedes came out top on 156, ahead of Ferrari on 133, Williams-Mecachrome 38 and Benetton-Mecachrome, whose 34 points gave them fourth place by just one point over Jordan-Honda.

Connors wins Champions Tennis title

TOKYO (AFP) —

American tennis legend Jimmy Connors denied any disadvantage of an eight-year age gap to beat Andres Gomez and defend the Champions Tennis tournament on Sunday.

"Of course, it's an advantage. There's no substitute for youth," said Connors, now 46, after scoring a 6-2, 6-3 victory in the final over the 1990 French Open champion, who is 38.

"So the older you get, the more experience you get, but the problem is when you get these experience, you are too old to do anything with it."

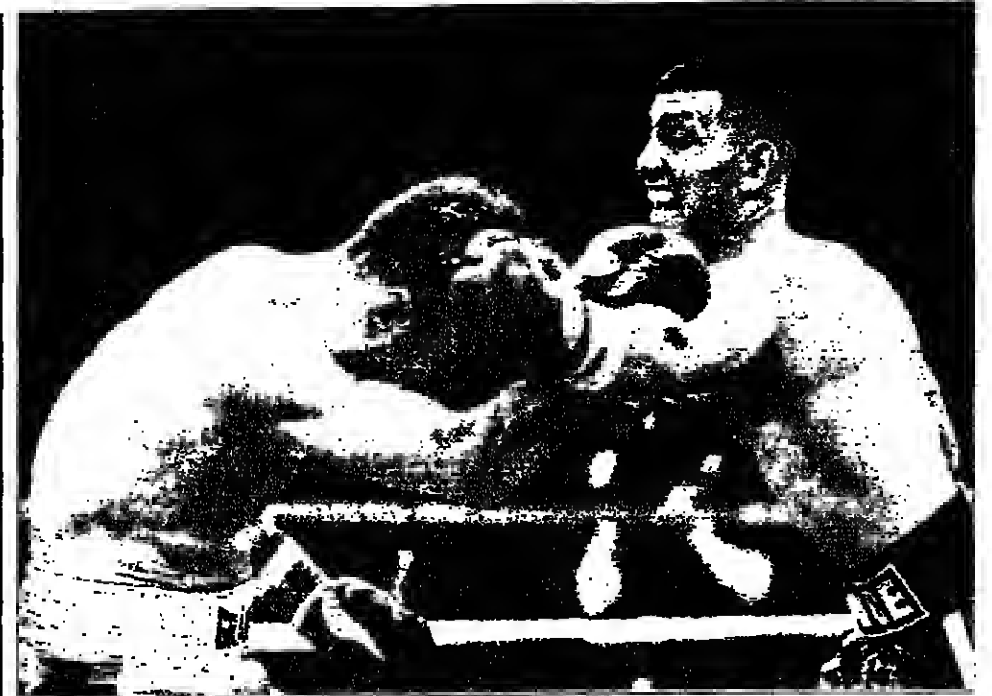
"I would not like to play against somebody 30 years old or 25 years old now, but as long as I'm in the age group, I feel at least I can go out and try to compete," said Connors.

The five-time U.S. Open champion said the secret of his eagerness to play tennis was not to practice every day.

"This is my last tournament of the year, so I have four months off. I just enjoy to get away from tennis and do other things and take care of the business," said Connors.

"I don't enjoy going out and practicing and doing that on daily basis any more. It's more important for me to come in and to be eager when I play my matches. So I go out and play like I did today — that's the most important thing," Connors concluded.

It was his sixth title of the year and 35th overall on the tour that he joined in 1993. The \$150,000 Tokyo tournament was the 16th leg of the 21-event tour.



WBO Featherweight Champion Prince Naseem Hamed (R), of Britain, delivers a blow to Wayne McCullough, of Northern Ireland, during the seventh round in Atlantic City. Hamed retained his title with a 12-round unanimous decision (Reuters photo)

Hamed outboxes plucky Irishman but has to go the distance

ATLANTIC CITY (AFP) —

"Prince" Naseem Hamed kept his World Boxing Organisation (WBO) featherweight title with a unanimous points decision over Irishman Wayne McCullough here Saturday.

McCullough saw his streak of 18 consecutive knockout victories ended when the Belfast boxer survived the twelve rounds and reluctantly admitted: "I have to band it to Wayne. He was quite strong."

"But I won easy. I won comfortably. At this stage it was just from God I go 12 rounds. The boy has a hard head. What can I say? He's Irish."

The judges scored it 116-112, 117-111 and 118-110. The latest victory stretched Hamed's unbeaten record to 31 while McCullough, a former World Boxing Council (WBC) bantamweight champion has now lost two of his 24 bouts.

The flashy Hamed evaded McCullough's best shots from the start, mixing powerful and punishing punches with arrogant movement. But his constant mocking of his opponent won him few friends in the arena.

McCullough tried to work on Hamed's body but the British son of Yemeni parents was too fast and clever as he used the same taunting style of his idol Muhammad Ali.

Hamed's \$2 million payday for the fight is four times what McCullough took home. No featherweight has ever been paid more.

Hamed's Halloween-themed entrance lasted four minutes — beginning with him playing an organ to Phantom of the Opera music, continuing with a pyrotechnics show and ending with "Prince" strolling to the ring through a makeshift graveyard to the tune of Michael Jackson's "Thriller."

Hamed had predicted a third-round knockout of McCullough but once that did not happen he concentrated on inflicting punishment.

"I just thought I was going to have to give him a better beating," Hamed said.

"Give him credit. He took a beating. He came to fight. But I won easy. I don't make excuses. I'm the world champion."

Hamed stressed he had no doubts about his future.

"I ain't going to lose," he said. "I'm going to keep winning until the end. I'm going to go unbeaten, to be one of the greats."

Hamed's next opponent is likely to be Mexico's Marco Antonio Barrera, who stopped England's Richie Winterton in the third-round on the undercard to take the vacant WBO junior-featherweight title.

Pierce lands 2nd successive win

LUXEMBOURG (AFP) — Mary Pierce took the \$164,250 WTA Tour event here Saturday after Italian opponent Silvia Farina was forced to retire from the final. The French No. 2 seed was leading 6-0, 2-0 when Farina pulled out with a groin strain. It was Pierce's second successive tournament win after beating Monica Seles in the Kremlin Cup last weekend, and her third of the season.

The World No. 8 said she would now take time out to prepare for the \$2 million Chase Championships in New York next month.

"I'll take a rest now to prepare for New York. I was playing point by point and didn't realise she was injured at first. It was only at the end of the first set that I realised something was wrong," she said.

Montreal-born Pierce, 23, plans to concentrate on improving her ranking next year and has ruled out appearing in the 1999 Fed Cup.

Farina, who had already had to take a medical break before her retirement early in the second set, said: "It was on my first serve that I felt a problem but I wanted to persevere as it's never good to abandon a final."



Manchester United's Jesper Blomquist (R) scores Manchester's fourth goal in an FA Carling Premiership clash against Everton at Goodison Park. Manchester United won 4-1 (AFP photo)

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	Daniel Day-Lewis & Emily Watson.. in THE BOXER Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Liam Neeson & Jessica Lange .. in ROB ROY Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Comedian Mohammad Huneidi .. in SAEEDI AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD '1' ADDICTED TO LOVE Shows: 12:30, 3:30 THE GAME Shows: 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2' UP CLOSE & PERSONAL Shows: 3:30, 5:30	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria Comedian Mohammad Huneidi .. in SAEEDI AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria Harrison Ford .. in SIX DAYS SEVEN NIGHTS Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Watch out for the new play

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Barcelona Brazilian Vito "Rivaldo" Ferreira (L) is fouled by Real Sociedad midfielder Austrian Dietmar Kuhhaer (C) as Ignar Jauregui (R) looks on in a Liga match at Camp Nou stadium 31 October in Barcelona. FC Barcelona won 4-1 (AFP photo)

Real Madrid shoot to top of table

MADRID (AFP) — Real Madrid shot to the top of the Spanish championship on Saturday with a 5-1 away thrashing of bottom club Extremadura.

Croatia's Robert Jarni, Brazil's Savi, Hierro from the spot, plus Croatian Davor Suker and Clarence Seedorf of Holland were all

on target as they overhauled former table-toppers Mallorca, who play at Deportivo La Coruna on Sunday.

Real now lead by two points from Mallorca. The 1996 Spanish league and cup double winners, Atletico Madrid, went into third with a 3-0 win over

Alaves while lowly Real Betis beat Salamanca 1-0.

Four more results were expected on Saturday evening — Racing Santander v Celta Vigo, Athletic Bilbao v Espanyol, Barcelona v Real Sociedad, and Real Zaragoza v Valencia.

Panel to decide if Dalglish was sacked

LONDON (AFP) — Three top legal minds are to decide if former Newcastle United manager Kenny Dalglish resigned or was sacked — and will rule on his claims that he is owed compensation by the English Premiership club.

Premier League chief Peter Leaver has appointed an arbitration panel consisting of Sir John Wood and Sir Maurice Drake — both High Court judges — and Michael Beloff QC to settle the dispute.

The former Magpies manager, who parted with Newcastle just two games into the season, wants to be paid for the remaining two years on his contract believed to be worth around £600,000, as well as a £2.5 million bonus promised at the end of the deal.

"Newcastle have been informed that there would be two judges and a QC representing the various parties," Leaver told the Sunday Telegraph. "The next move is really up to them, because we are raring to go."

The club, insisting Dalglish resigned, said the day after his exit: "The Chairman of Newcastle United FC was advised on August 18 by Kenny Dalglish that he wished to resign as soon as possible — but not before a replacement was appointed. The club reluctantly agreed to release Kenny Dalglish from his contract."

The case will mark the first use of the arbitration panel, part of the Premier League's articles of association when it was formed in 1992.

According to the rules, the panel must consist of an independent legally qualified chairman, an appointee of the Premier League and an appointee of the League Managers' Association.

Big-serving Krajicek downs Kafelnikov in final

STUTTGART (AFP) — Richard Krajicek won the \$2.45 million Eurocard Open on Sunday, trouncing Yevgeny Kafelnikov 6-4, 6-3, 6-3 in the final.

The win saw the Dutchman move into provisional eighth position for the season-ending ATP Tour World Championships later this month, overhauling Britain's Tim Henman for the final slot.

Big-serving Krajicek, a former Wimbledon champion, ignored a knee requiring arthroscopic surgery before the end of the year to earn his second career title in Stuttgart. He also won here three years ago.

Krajicek was devastating in a battle of former Grand Slam champions, particularly on serve. He conceded just 14 points on his own service.

The 1996 Wimbledon winner will now have to maintain his hot finishing pace next week at the Paris Indoor Open, the final Mercedes Super 9 tournament of the year.

"My serve was very important," said Krajicek, who took just under two

hours for victory. "I returned well also, but you cannot win only with serve. I played a good game."

World No. 8 Kafelnikov said: "Richard was on top of his game all week and deserved to win without a doubt. He knew his serve was working and he was getting a lot of easy points and gambling on the return. It paid off. He played extremely well."

Krajicek, a losing finalist here last year, won \$376,000 for his week's work which included a win over Pete Sampras for the third time in a row.

The Dutchman finished off the one-way final after breaking in the second game of the final set, acting to take a 5-2 lead and winning through on his first match point, a sharply-angled backhand volley winner.

The victory meant a 15th career title for Krajicek, 26, and his second this year after St Petersburg.

Krajicek started the match with a break of Kafelnikov as the Russian double-faulted, then served early love games almost at will.

The Dutchman wrapped up the

opening set after Kafelnikov saved a first set point with a smooth pass down the line.

But the 11th seed came good on his second chance two points later with an ace.

Krajicek applied the pressure in the second set to earn a break for 2-1 against Kafelnikov, in his fifth final of the year.

In the ninth game, the Russian served up a double-fault to give the Dutchman two set points.

The Russian fought through, saving the first with a volley winner to the corner and escaped the second when Krajicek returned long.

Krajicek then unleashed a stinging winner which caught the baseline for a third set point and profited when Kafelnikov fired a forehand long to drop the second set.

The third set continued in the same pattern, Krajicek finishing the match with 21 aces.

Game over for Fiorentina; Udinese lose 4-0

MILAN (AFP) — Fiorentina's domination of Italian football came to an end on Saturday when they were beaten 2-0 by Parma, and AS Roma roasted Udinese 4-0 at the Olympic stadium.

Fiorentina's second defeat of the season kept them on 15 points, while Roma showed real championship-winning class in their victory under floodlights to move into second place just two points off the pace.

Parma, who have already beaten champions Juventus, also showed their title credentials by slashing Fiorentina's lead over the other title contenders.

Herman Crespo did the damage for Parma with a goal in each half. Enrico Chiesa provided the cross for Crespo's 36th minute header, and then picked him out again for the second in the 52nd minute.

It was the best performance this season for Crespo, whose tough time over the past year included missing a penalty in the World Cup shoot-out with England at France 98.

It was probably Fiorentina's worst display of the season and coach Giovanni Trapattoni admitted: "Parma were fresher and more aggressive. But not forget that we've been playing three times a week."

"Parma changed their team for the Italian Cup last week but we had our usual team out against Lecce. Two or three of our players were below par

today and the whole team suffered as a result."

And he summed up: "We didn't deserve to lose against AS Roma, but we did deserve to lose this one. We're not unbeatable, but then no-one is."

Parma coach Alberto Malesani, who was in charge at Fiorentina last season, denied that he had "silenced" his successor Trapattoni with the performance.

"You couldn't silence him, when you think of all the trophies he's won, not even in a 1,000 years. Even today, he had just a few words with me but still made me understand a lot of things. He is a maestro for everyone."

Roma allowed Udinese just

one shot on goal over the entire 90 minutes as they dominated the match under lights.

Eusebio Di Francesco scored just before the break and Francesco Toti, the team skipper who only turned 22 in September, smashed a superb angled volley past the Udinese keeper to make it 2-0.

Cameroon defender Pierre Wome set up Roma's third.

collecting Di Francesco's backheel, surging down the left and chipping the ball over for Brazilian Paolo Sergio to head powerfully into the corner.

And after a string of earlier misses, Roma finally scored their first goal of the season from the penalty spot when Toti converted in the 71st minute to complete the rout.

Bologna beat Venezia 2-0 in Saturday's other match

Rubin, Snyder in Quebec final

QUEBEC (AP) — Tara Snyder had to rally from a first-set drubbing to beat fellow American Jane Chi Saturday and set up an all-United States final with Chandra Rubin at the Bell Challenge Open.

Chi, ranked 128th of the WTA Tour, dominated her seventh-seeded compatriot to start the match, but Snyder came back for a 1-6, 3-7, 5-7 victory.

Rubin won her semifinal match against Nathalie Dechy of France 6-2, 6-4.

Chi's style frustrated Snyder, who received a code violation for ball abuse after she was broken in the seventh game of the second set. But she used the outburst to her advantage, winning the next two games to take the set.

"She came out really strong and was aggressive in the first, but I really wasn't moving at all," Snyder said. "I had to be more aggressive and in the third set I had to come into the net more and force play."

Play tightened up in the third set with both players holding serve until Chi cracked in the ninth game to fall behind 5-4.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Giggs blow for United

MANCHESTER (AFP) — Manchester United winger Ryan Giggs will be out of action for a month with a broken foot, United manager Alex Ferguson revealed Saturday. Giggs had been struggling with the injury since the victory over Liverpool a month ago, and when he made his return against Derby last weekend, he received another blow on the same left foot. United sent the winger for X-rays this week when he was barely able to walk and could not get a boot on. It was then discovered that he had broken a small bone in his left foot. Ferguson said: "It is a bad blow for us, particularly with the crucial Champions League game in Barcelona only three weeks away. We discovered the injury after he was hurt again playing against Derby." It means that Swedish winger Jesper Blomqvist will retain his left-wing role in the United side.

Everton facing probe

LIVERPOOL (AFP) — Everton face a Football Association (FA) inquiry after a bottle-throwing incident at the end of their 4-1 English Premiership defeat at home to Manchester United on Saturday. Referee Peter Jones confirmed after the match that bottles had been thrown at United goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel. When the official went to investigate, more bottles were thrown at him. Jones confirmed that he will be including the incident in his official report on the game which will be sent to the FA.

Arsenal bus kills security man

COVENTRY, England (AP) — Tragedy struck the Coventry City vs. Arsenal Premier League game Saturday when the bus arriving at Highfield Road with the Arsenal players struck and killed a security guard. Police said the man died of head and chest injuries caused when the bus, carrying the Arsenal players into the stadium complex, crushed him against a fence. Superintendent Bob Minshall said the incident happened about an hour before kickoff. "Although the players were on the coach, it does not appear they were aware of exactly what happened or at least the seriousness of what happened," Minshall said. Arsenal, the Premier League defending champion, won the game 1-0 to stay third in the standings behind Aston Villa and Manchester United.

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After which date and hour tendering shall be closed and no Tender proposal will be accepted. Tender proposals will be opened at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, November 30, 1998.

3. Each Tender shall be accompanied by an acceptable Bid Security drawn in favour of the Jordan University of Science & Technology from or approved by an accredited bank in Jordan in an amount of not less than 3% of the total bid amount.

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Hamas makes first direct threat against Arafat government

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — In what could prove a blow to the fledgling peace accords, Hamas' military wing on Sunday made its first direct threat against the government of Yasser Arafat, accusing the Palestinian leader of treason.

All-out conflict between Arafat's government and the Islamist group could make it extremely difficult to move ahead with the implementation of the Israeli-Palestinian land-for-security agreement signed Oct. 23 in Washington.

The threat comes three days after Arafat put Hamas' spiritual leader, Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, under house arrest, and as the Palestinians were said to be hunting a top Hamas military leader.

"There is no doubt that Arafat and his repressive security apparatus have reached the point of treason," said the leaflet signed by Hamas' military arm, Izzedine Al Qassam, and faxed to news organisations. "Infighting has begun, and no one can put out its fire."

In the leaflet, Hamas appealed to Arafat to halt an ongoing crackdown against "our sons and fighters" in order to spare Palestinians "the horrors... of civil war."

David Bar-Ilan, a top aide to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, had no comment on the leaflet. But as

for the peace accords, he said, "I don't expect anything will upset the apple cart."

The Palestinian side, too, said the threat would not affect moving ahead with the agreement.

"We reject this statement," said Palestinian Police Commander Ghazi Jabali. "We are going to keep our commitments."

No Hamas official would publicly vouch for the authenticity of the leaflet, but the ornate language, style and phrasing were markedly similar to past communications from Hamas' military wing.

Only last week, Yassin said Hamas does not want a bloody confrontation with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). But that was before the arrest following a Hamas claim of responsibility for a failed suicide bombing on Thursday aimed at Jewish settler children in the Gaza Strip.

None of the children was hurt, but an Israeli soldier was killed when the military jeep he was riding in intercepted the explosives-rigged car.

In the leaflet, Hamas claimed the army jeep, not the school bus, was its real target. "We would never target children or the elderly," it said.

Up until now, Hamas has insisted that its quarrel is only

with Israel, with which it vehemently rejects any peace.

However, it has denounced the peace accords' provisions calling for Arafat's government to move against Islamists.

Arafat launched the wide-ranging crackdown against Hamas even before Thursday's attack. In recent days, more than 100 Hamas activists have been rounded up, including several top leaders.

Among those jailed was the group's spokesman, Mahmoud Zahar.

Israel has demanded the arrest of Mohammad Deif, one of the military wing's top leaders. Deif, who is blamed for several terror attacks, has been in hiding out in Gaza for three years.

The Gaza Strip's head of security, Abdul Razak Majaydeh, said the PNA was hunting for Deif, Israel Radio reported. The leaflet specifically warned against capturing him. "Anyone who allows himself to plan or conspire against the hero Deif or any of our holy warriors will pay a high price," it said.

Earlier Sunday, before the leaflet appeared, Chief Palestinian Negotiator Saeb Erekat expressed hopes that there would not be an open clash with Hamas.



Afghan fighters loyal to warlord Ahmad Shah Masood, the strongest opponent of the Taliban militia, takes out ammunition from a Soviet-made helicopter MI-6 in Andarab, northern Afghanistan, Oct. 29. The forces of Masood are still giving a hard time to the Taliban militia controlling more than 80 per cent of the country (AFP photo)

Khatami criticises Taliban's 'dangerous' interpretation of Islam

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian President Mohammad Khatami described the Taliban's interpretation of Islam as "dangerous" on Sunday and called for a broad-based government in war-torn neighbouring Afghanistan.

"What happens in Afghanistan nowadays is not just the problem of countries which border Afghanistan, but that of the whole region," Khatami said in talks here with visiting Tajik Foreign Minister Talbek Nazarov.

"What the Taliban movement does in the name of Islam is dangerous for the entire region," the president added, quoted by the official Iranian news agency IRNA.

He voiced concern over the "continuation of war, and blood-letting in Afghanistan."

and called for a "stable and broad-based government" there as the "only solution to the crisis."

Shiite Muslim Iran is vehemently opposed to the extremist Sunni Muslim Taliban and supports opposition groups fighting the militia in Afghanistan.

Relations hit an alltime low in August when Taliban militiamen raided Iran's consulate in the northern Afghan city of Mazar-e-Sharif and killed nine Iranian diplomats and a journalist.

Iran has dispatched tens of thousands of troops to its border with Afghanistan for unprecedented manoeuvres involving 200,000 troops, the main part of which will start on Monday.

However, tensions have eased somewhat after the

Taliban freed dozens of Iranian prisoners last month. But their release only meets part of Tehran's conditions for entering into talks with the Taliban.

Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi demanded Saturday a speedy identification and punishment of the murderers of the Iranian diplomats.

Iran also wants the Taliban to abide by U.N. resolutions and a declaration by the "Six-plus-Two" group for a broad-based government in Afghanistan.

The group, consisting of the United States, Russia and six neighbours of Afghanistan, including Iran, made the declaration after a meeting in New York in late September.

"We recommend the Taliban immediately meet the

demands of the international community," Kharazi said.

Referring to a week-long truce declared between the Taliban and the opposition on Monday, Kharazi said Iran had always supported a peaceful settlement in Afghanistan.

But he said this required a real and permanent cease-fire and comprehensive talks.

Tehran, which still supports the ousted government of Burhanuddin Rabbani, has been lobbying against international recognition of the Taliban, which controls around 90 per cent of the war-ravaged country.

Only Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates recognise the militia as Afghanistan's legitimate government.

Hizbollah wants Arafat killed by Palestinians

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's Islamist Hizbollah group on Sunday called on the Palestinians to kill President Yasser Arafat for signing an interim peace deal with Israel last month.

Speaking at a mass rally to denounce the U.S.-brokered Wye Plantation interim deal, the pro-Iranian group's leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah branded Arafat a traitor and told the Palestinians to attack Israel to foil the accord.

"Is there no Palestinian who can do what Khaled Islambouli did and say that Arafat's presence on the face of this earth is shameful to the Palestinians and the Muslims?" the cleric asked.

Nasrallah was referring to the Egyptian Islamist who shot dead former Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in 1981 for signing a 1979 peace deal with Israel.

"We call on the Palestinian people, the Arabs and Muslims to topple Arafat before he implements the accord," Nasrallah said as hundreds of supporters cheered.

His comments were a hard-line version of the stinging rebuke Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei delivered on Friday to Arafat for signing the Wye accord.

The deal, which ended an 18-month deadlock in peace talks, calls on Arafat to scrap a clause in the Palestinian legislature which calls for the destruction of Israel. Iran and Hizbollah say Israel has no right to exist.

Israel and the Palestinians also agreed to crackdown on "terrorists" and all forms of

violence that jeopardise peace.

"To make the Wye Plantation accord void... does not need rockets or missiles or heavy artillery," said Nasrallah. "The accord is like a spider web that our women and children can pull down... Palestinian youth can nullify this accord using knives... I call on all Palestinians who own knives, grenades or guns to go out and kill Israelis."

The three-hour rally, which took place in an aving in a Hizbollah-dominated southern Beirut suburb, included speakers from the Palestinian Islamist groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

Both groups have also denounced the deal. Hamas said it was behind last week's car bombing in the Gaza Strip which killed an Israeli soldier and narrowly missed a school bus of Jewish children.

Hizbollah troops clutched rifles parolled the streets around the awning while others stood guard on the rooftops.

Children dressed in scout uniforms with badges of Iran's late spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini pinned on their shirts joined women and men chanting "Victory to Islam, Death to Israel" under banners that read "The Holy Warriors will foil the Wye Plantation accord."

Hizbollah is waging a guerrilla war to oust Israeli troops from a 15-kilometre deep zone in south Lebanon. Twelve Israelis have been killed and 83 wounded in the south this year.

Virginity comment leads to Turkish TV strike

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish television producers went on strike claiming censorship Sunday after authorities decided to shut down a television station for allowing comments about a government minister's virginity to be broadcast.

A number of producers announced they were starting industrial action in reaction to the decision earlier this week by the broadcasting authority, the High Audio-Visual Council, to impose a 24-hour closure on the private D channel.

The council, set up by the government in 1994, said remarks by well-known actor Levant Kirca about the virginity of Minister Islay Saygin had been "insulting and degrading."

Saygin had told the Hürriyet daily earlier this month that she was too busy to get around to having sex.

Kirca said he will start a hunger strike in Ankara next week to protest "state censorship."

The striking producers work for a number of different stations.

Iraq hosts largest trade fair since Gulf war

BAGHDAD (AP) — France shipped in the latest-model Peugeot sedans. The Palestinians brought hand-made inlaid boxes from Bethlehem. The Sudanese came with peanuts and sorghum, the Iranians with refrigerators and pharmaceuticals.

They're among 30 countries taking part in the Baghdad International Fair opening Sunday that's being billed as the largest in Iraq since the 1991 Gulf war.

The turnout "shows the increasing desire of companies to establish relations with Iraq," the fair's director, Fawzi Hussein Al Dahur, told the official Iraqi News Agency.

The fair is opening a day after Iraq took a new stand against U.N. weapons inspections, announcing it was halting the work of weapons monitors until the Security Council moves toward lifting eight-year-old trade sanctions against the country.

As the finishing touches were being put on the pavilions Saturday, participants acknowledged that they saw only limited trade opportunities while the U.N. sanctions remain in place.

"But everyone feels that the sanctions will end soon," said Seret Akkaynak as he stood amid tillers, asphalt cutters and electrical generators made in his native Turkey.

"Iraq is a good potential market for us," he added. "We had a long history of trade, and we're high on re-establishing ourselves." The sanctions, imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, ban most business dealings, except under the special, U.N.-approved oil-for-food programme.

Saturday's refusal to allow U.N. monitors to work — which strengthened an August ban on spot inspections — was meant to push for ending the sanctions. But the Security Council termed the action a "flagrant violation" of U.N. resolutions and urged Baghdad to reverse its decision.

Ministers or deputy ministers from about a dozen countries were expected to attend the 10-

day fair to discuss future trade deals.

A visitor getting close attention was Iranian Commerce Minister Mohammad Shariatmadari, one of the highest-ranking Iranian officials to come to Iraq since the two countries fought a brutal, eight-year war in the 1980s.

After meeting Saturday with Iraqi Trade Minister Mohammed Mehdi Saleh, Shariatmadari announced that the two countries would set up joint committees to discuss trade and commercial ventures, INA said.

The fairsground in Baghdad's up-scale Al Mansour neighbourhood bustled with products being unloaded from semi-trailers and trucks and booths being decked out with flags and other national symbols.

A large portrait of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat greeted visitors to the Palestinian booth. At the Iraqi industry ministry building, workers installed a larger-than-life portrait of President Saddam Hussein in a gray business suit.

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Egypt — with 58 companies constituting one of the largest delegations — hadn't been to the Baghdad fair in years, said Antoun Labib, director of the Egyptian international exhibitions office.

Its firms are showing everything from tractors and reapers to children's clothes, fruit juice and corn oil.

"This is a good opportunity for Egyptian companies to make contacts for the future," Labib said. "The case of Iraq is beginning to come better now." Still, many won't find buyers until the sanctions are lifted.

At the Peugeot booth, Iraqi dealer Sadir Barazan said the shiny burgundy, blue and olive green Peugeot 406s on display would be shipped out of Iraq after the show in compliance with the U.N. sanctions.

He noted that Iraqi streets are crowded with Peugeots, but that most date to the early- and mid-1980s.

"There was a big market here before the Gulf war," he said. "We are all waiting anxiously for the future."

Militants start settlement project in Ras Al Amoud

(Continued from page 1)

"You killed us in Kafr Qassem and Deir Yassin and you're coming back to take our land and kill us here," he said, referring to two infamous massacres of Arabs by Israeli forces.

Saeb Erekat, a senior Palestinian negotiator, sent letters to Israel, U.S. mediator Dennis Ross, European and other governments demanding that Israel "immediately stop" the Ras Al Amoud project and respect the terms of the recent peace accord.

"Such unilateral steps will prejudice the issues of the final status negotiations, which include the future of

Jerusalem," he said.

Under the peace accord signed Oct. 23 in Washington, Israel is to cede a further 13 per cent of the West Bank in exchange for detailed Palestinian action to halt anti-Israel violence.

The accord calls for a halt to all "unilateral actions" which change the status of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank prior to negotiations which are to begin soon on the final borders and powers of the Palestinian entity. Palestinians say this applies to all settlement building, including in east Jerusalem. Netanyahu claims it only bars the creation of new settlements and does not apply to east Jerusalem.

Iraq defies U.N. Security Council

(Continued from page 1)

On the ground, Butler suspended UNSCOM inspections following Iraq's decision but the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was exempted from the ban and continued its monitoring work on Sunday, a U.N. source said.

Baghdad newspapers, meanwhile, said the break was inevitable but stressed that Iraq has not slammed the door on the Security Council.

"Iraq could not wait any longer and remain silent indefinitely in the face of U.S. arrogance and the submission" of other Security Council members to the policies of the United States, said Babel.

Al Thawra, another official daily, said "Iraq had no choice but to break with this corrupt commission."

But "with this decision, Iraq has not gone back on its commitments. It has not closed the door in the face of the Security

Council," said the organ of the ruling Baath Party.

Already since Aug. 5, Iraq has banned both UNSCOM and the IAEA from carrying out inspections of new sites but allowed monitoring operations at military and industrial facilities.

Saturday's decision by the Iraqi leadership did not call for the expulsion of UNSCOM, which has around 120 staff in Baghdad, including 40 arms experts. But Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations, Nizar Hamdoun, said UNSCOM inspectors would probably have to leave. "I presume (yes), because they have nothing more to do," he said.

UNSCOM's deputy chief Charles Duelfer, however, said the inspectors would stay on in Baghdad, "in the hope that Iraq will reverse its decision."

The latest crisis over inspections came a day after the Security Council said it was ready to launch a "comprehensive review" of the sanctions regime, as proposed by U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, once Iraq lifted its Aug. 5 ban.

But it refused to give assurances that the review would lead to a lifting of sanctions and also made no direct reference to paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 which links the oil embargo to UNSCOM's work.

The United States, which takes a hard line against a lifting of sanctions, insists that other conditions such as a release of Kuwaiti prisoners must also be met before sanctions are lifted.

In Washington, President Bill Clinton's National Security Council (NSC) held a two-hour meeting on Saturday to discuss Iraq. An NSC spokesman called Iraq's decision "a very serious matter."

U.S. Defence Secretary William Cohen called off a planned tour of Asia and returned to Washington.

Israeli flies through four airports with undetected weapons

TEL AVIV (AFP) — An Israeli businessman passed through security checks at four international airports carrying an undetected pistol magazine loaded with live bullets, the Haaretz newspaper reported Sunday.

The businessman, whose identity was not revealed, said he unknowingly carried the bullets through searches and X-ray checks at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport — reputed to have the world's tightest airport security — as well as airports in Rome, London and New York.

He only realised the magazine and bullets from his personal weapon were in his carry-on bag when he reached Cuba, where he

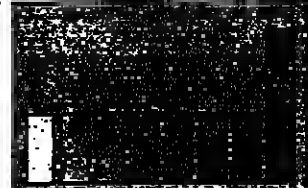
quickly threw the ammunition into the ocean.

"When I found the magazine in Cuba I was frightened, I didn't want to end up in a Cuban jail," the man told Haaretz.

"Suddenly I realised that I went through all the X-ray security checks at the airports, including Ben Gurion, and the bullets were never discovered," he said.

A spokesman for the airports authority was unaware of the man's claim, but said the "chances of such a thing happening are very slim."

"Such things happen in every airport in the world, although of course we would prefer they didn't," he said.



Leopards reappear in Armenia

YEREVAN (AP) — Snow leopards, which had been hunted to near-extinction in Armenia, have begun to reappear in increasing numbers, government officials said. From a low of just two leopards in a government preserve a few years ago, there are now an estimated 30 throughout the country, Ministry of Ecology spokesman Artur Papanyan said Saturday. Snow leopards, indigenous to Central Asia and once highly prized for their pelts, are considered endangered internationally. Their worldwide population was estimated at 4,500 to 7,400 in 1996, according to the World Wildlife Fund.

Killing of elephants to resume

NELSPRUIT (AP) — Conservation officials have proposed killing some elephants in one of Africa's largest parks, saying that elephant overpopulation threatens other species. The practice of "culling" elephants in Kruger National Park was suspended in 1996 pending a review of the controversial policy. After conducting the review, park officials now recommend that the Israel-sized park be divided into six zones. In some, elephants would be allowed to multiply, but in others, their populations would be reduced by 7 per cent per year. Elephants in those zones would be moved elsewhere or killed by marksmen aboard helicopters, according to the recommendations.

But he said this required a real and permanent cease-fire and comprehensive talks. Tehran, which still supports the ousted government of Burhanuddin Rabbani, has been lobbying against international recognition of the Taliban, which controls around 90 per cent of the war-ravaged country.

Only Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates recognise the militia as Afghanistan's legitimate government.

MacPherson says she is able to cope with the pressures of being a supermodel because of her typical Australian upbringing. "Australians are brought up to be down to earth," she told the Sun. Telegraph. "Australians spend time in the garden and with nature, and you play games with kids down the street, and I think that creates a very healthy individual and a free spirit as well." The woman worth a reported \$34 million says her best friend is a policeman.

MacPherson praises Australian upbringing

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Van Damme loses control in court

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Actor Jean-Claude Van Damme is finding it hard to keep his cool in the courtroom. The action star lost control on the witness stand Friday, screaming out his denial to accusations that he owes film profits to multi-arts expert Frank Dux. Dux is suing the 38-year-old actor for \$1.5 million. "I swear before God and under oath I never once in my life tried to take credit away from a man!" Van Damme yelled. His attorney, Martin Singer, and Superior Court Judge James Kaddo unsuccessfully tried to quiet him down. The judge eventually called a recess to restore order.

'We weren't giving up anything'

NEW YORK (AP) — Son Hollywood insiders questioned the wisdom of Nicole Kidman and Tom Cruise spending a year-and-a-half in the prime of their movie careers making "Eyes Wide Shut" with eccentric filmmaker Stanley Kubrick. "People looked at us like we were crazy to go there," Kidman says in Movieline magazine. "But we weren't giving up anything, we were working with Kubrick. Yeah, I could have done three other movies and made lots of money — who cares?" Despite the time involved and the secrecy surrounding Kubrick's latest work, due for release next summer, Kidman said working for the legendary filmmaker was uplifting. "It was an honour," she said.